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Japan

Armacost Negates U.S. Marine Withdrawal Idea

OW3103014190 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 31 Mar 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] Michael Armacost, U.S. ambassador to Japan, arrived in Okinawa on 30 March and granted an interview to the local press at the Okinawa Convention Center on the same afternoon. In this interview, Ambassador Armacost touched on the issue concerning the return of U.S. forces facilities and areas in Okinawa, which is currently under consideration at consultations of the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee [JUJC], and stated his personal view that "an accord would probably be reached in late spring or early summer." Among those connected with the Japanese or U.S. Governments, he was the first to mention the timing for a possible accord. Because his remarks indicate that Japan-U.S. consultations are now nearing a final settlement, it is noted that the details of the talks on the return of these facilities will be made partially public soon. Touching on the issue with regard to the reduction of U.S. forces in Japan—it is said that the troops may be reduced by 5,000 to 6,000—he said that "the units stationed in Okinawa will also be affected." He added that there would possibly be "reorganization, readjustment, and rationalization of the U.S. force units stationed in Okinawa to some extent" within the next three years.

Because the narrow area of Okinawa is crowded with U.S. military bases, local people have been forced to endure inconveniences and to make sacrifices. While indicating his understanding of such a situation in Okinawa, he stressed that the deployment of U.S. forces "has contributed to the defense and security of Japan as well as to the peace and stability in the (Asia-Pacific) region."

Furthermore, he stated that no moves comparable to changes in East Europe have been noted in the international situation in Asia, that the reduction of U.S. forces in this region will be carried out in a reasonable [odayaka] way, and that it will be carried out with caution and while maintaining close contacts with the Japanese Government.

Regarding the possibility of withdrawing U.S. Marine Corps units stationed in Okinawa, he negated this possibility and said: "I do not think there will be any withdrawal in the predictable future."

Ambassador Armacost said that no final accord on the return of bases had been reached at the JUJC sessions. However, he admitted that "it is true that there has been some progress in the talks." Moreover, he indicated a positive approach to the readjustment and unification of U.S. military bases in Okinawa by saying that "military bases will be reorganzied or readjusted as much as possible" only if such measures do not impede the purpose of their deployment here.

Ambasador Armacost did not indicate what facilities are to be returned. However, the return of facilities currently under discussion at the JUJC sessions have so far been brought up either officially or unofficially. It is observed that an accord will be reached soon on the return of such facilities as the Awase Golf Course, Onna communications facilities, and Urasoe-Ginowan pipelines.

Trade Official Questions Store Law Exceptions

OW3003123390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1029 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—A top-ranking trade official Friday expressed skepticism over reported government proposals to exempt some areas from the Large-Scale Retail Stores Law in response to the U.S. demand that the law be abolished. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) official, who requested not to be identified, said it would be quite difficult to find legal justification for changing the law to make some areas exempt from it.

"How can you justify, if the spirit of the law is to be observed, changes that make some areas exempt from the law while other areas are not?," the official said. "Such a step would also pose a politically tough task since it would be tantamount to giving short shrift to some areas," he said.

There have been news reports that some members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) favor revisions of the law to exclude such large cities as Tokyo and Osaka from application of the law. The law in question, which restricts the opening of stores with floor space of 500 square meters or over to protect small-sized shops, has become a focal subject in the current structural impediments initiative (SII) talks between Japan and the U.S. The U.S. is demanding that Japan eliminate internal barriers to U.S. exports.

The U.S. has insisted that the law should be repealed because it impedes foreign access to the Japanese market.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has so far failed to strike a compromise among the government and the LDP on how to respond to the U.S. demand. Many LDP members are opposed to even revising the law for fear that it would cost them their Diet seats by antagonizing small shopowners—long-standing supporters of the party.

International Trade and Industry Ministry Kabun Muto has denied the government is considering repealing the law, but has hinted that revising the law is under consideration. The MITI official also said that the government will have to present at the fourth round of the SII talks next week a detailed answer to most of the U.S. "suggestions" for improving foreign access to the Japanese market that reportedly number more than 200.

The two sides are expected to draw up an interim report after the meetings on Monday and Tuesday in Washington. "Although the report is called an interim assessment, it seems the U.S. is unlikely to be satisfied with anything but quite a detailed draft," he said.

Earlier in the day Muto said in a press conference that the interim report will probably include at least the "framework" of what will be the final outcome of the talks.

Retail Stores Law Likely To Be Revised in 1992

OW3103140990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1348 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—The government plans to revise the Large-Scale Retail Stores Law, which restricts the opening of large-scale stores and protects small- and medium-sized shopowners, in fiscal 1992 in the face of U.S. demand that that law be abolished, government sources said Saturday.

The government will ease application of the law until it is revised, the sources said. Small- and medium-sized shopowners who support the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] want the law maintained without any change.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Mutsuki Kato, chairman of LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, on Saturday exchanged views on the issue. International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto consulted with top officials of his ministry on what Japan can offer to the U.S. at next week's Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks in Washington.

The content of the consultations has not been revealed, but the government plans to incorporate the two-stage policy into an interim report to be drawn up in early April on elimination of what the U.S. sees as Japanese structural impediments to trade and investment, the sources said.

The government plans to revise the law to shorten the period from application to opening of large-scale store to be not longer than a year, instead of the current 10 years or more, and exempt big cities from the law, the sources said.

The government and the ruling LDP also plan to send a special envoy to the United States before submitting the interim report, the sources said.

5-Year Public Investment Plan To Be Drafted

OW3003145190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1418 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The government will draw up a new five-year sewage system and city park construction program, government sources said Friday. The sources said the new program (fiscal 1991 to 1995) would be drawn up in view of the U.S. proposal that Japan increase its public investments to 10 percent of gross national product (GNP) within three to five years from 6.7 percent in 1988. They said the new program would call for a raise in the sewage system diffusion rate to at least 55 percent by fiscal 1995 from an estimated 40 percent in fiscal 1990. The program would also provide for an increase in the per-capita city park area to 7.8 square-meters by fiscal 1995 from an estimated 5.7 square-meters in fiscal 1990, the sources said.

The sources said the government is setting such a nonmonetary target in view of bitter objections raised by the Finance Ministry, which said the determination of a monetary target for promotion of public spending, in terms of its ratio to GNP, would restrict Japan in the compilation of a government budget. They also said the sewage system and city parks have been chosen since Japan is far behind other advanced countries in the diffusion

Kaifu To Talk With Bush by Telephone 2 Apr

OW0204085190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0811 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Former ambassador to the United States Nobuo Matsunaga left for Washington on Monday as a de-facto especial envoy to undertake behind-the-scenes lobbying efforts amid the holding of a two-day session of U.S.-Japan trade talks, government sources said.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, meanwhile, expected to talk with U.S. President George Bush by telephone later in the day to try to resolve differences over bilateral impediments to trade and investment, another government source said. The exact time of the telephone call is unknown, but it is likely to take place after the final government draft proposals for an interim report on the so-called Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) is finalized in the evening, the source said.

The first sources said Matsunaga will be making contacts with key administration and congressional officials to explain Japan's situation amid the fourth round of SII talks Monday and Tuesday.

Matsunaga, who served as Japan's envoy to Washington from 1985 to 1989, is expected to return to Tokyo on Thursday, the sources said.

Foreign Ministry sources said while Matsunaga will not take part in the SII talks, he will be actively "interfacing" with congressional leaders and other important Washington figures following their conclusion.

The Foreign Ministry, in another apparent move to head off unwarranted criticism of Japan during and after the trade talks, has already dispatched its spokesman, Taizo Watanabe, to the U.S. capital.

Watanabe, who served as the second-highest official at the Japanese Embassy in Washington from 1987 to 1989, will make contacts there with leading media figures and make television appearances to explain the Japanese side of the thorny bilateral trade issue.

Government Reaches Telecom Accord With U.S.

OW3103023190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0214 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Washington, March 30 (KYODO)—Japan and the United States on Friday reached basic agreement under which Japan promised "in principle" to further open its telecommunications market. The accord allowed Japan to avert sanctions the U.S. had threatened to impose without agreement by the Saturday deadline.

Japanese and U.S. officials said Japan specifically agreed to liberalize its market for network channel terminating equipment (NCTE). The equipment, described in Japan as digital service units (DSUS), connects user terminals to a telecommunications network. But the officials said the two countries failed to iron out other issues, including those related to Japan's distinction of telecommunications service operators between general and special businesses. They agreed to settle these issues within the next 120 days.

The two countries also agreed to continue negotiations on some aspects of Japan's telecommunications business law itself, a Japanese official said. "We have no plans to change our law per se," he told reporters.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills hailed the basic agreement as a "constructive way to proceed. Our Japanese colleagues have provided a firm commitment to resolve issues of concern to us, with the benefit of technical expertise from both sides," she said in a statement.

It is "inappropriate" for her to take retaliatory action under section 1377 of the 1988 trade act, she added.

The section mandated President George Bush's chief trade negotiator to determine by March 31 whether U.S. trading partners violate their telecommunications pacts with the U.S. and deny U.S. firms "equitable" market access promised under such pacts.

"I expect our negotiations to succeed," Hills said. She added, however, that the U.S. plans to review "all of our options at the end of the negotiating period."

Lumber Trade Talks To Be Held With U.S.

OW0204075790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0639 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Japan and the United States will hold trade talks here April 9-10 on widening U.S. access to Japan's wood products market, the Foreign Ministry said Monday. In their next round of talks, negotiators from the two countries will discuss issues pending since the last round of talks in Washigton in mid-March, ministry officials said.

At the last talks, U.S. officials expressed appreciation of a Japanese compromise plan to introduce clear standards on tariff classsifications for wood products and Tokyo hopes to see the next talks ending with an agreement. But the U.S. side is still urging Tokyo to lower tariffs on certain laminated wood products and to liberalize building standards to allow more lumber to be used in construction.

Trade in wood products is one of three priority issues—along with supercomputers and satellites—cited by Washington under the so-called Super 301 clause of its 1988 Trade Act for possible retaliation against unfair trade practices.

The two countries have already reached agreement on trade in supercomputers, but they remain divided over trade in the two other areas.

Interest Rate To Be Major G-7 Meeting Topic

OW3003182390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries will seek ways to calm growing interest rate pressures worldwide, sources at the Finance Ministry said Friday. The sources said the issue has emerged as one of the major topics at the G-7 talks to be held on April 7 in Paris.

The move also reflects fears among the G-7 member nations that higher interest rates would put an added burden on debt-strapped developing countries, they said. A full percentage point hike in interest rates in creditor nations would create as much as 5 billion dollars in extra payments for debtors, the sources said.

The sources said such interest rate pressures persisting in the major Western countries would have an adverse spillover effect on planned investments in reform-minded East European countries.

The sources also said that finding coordinated responses to higher interest rates would be given due attention from a global perspective. Such a vital issue should not be treated out of purely domestic considerations, they said.

Japanese representatives at the forthcoming G-7 meeting also are expected to appeal to other member countries to find effective ways to halt the yen's unabated decline against the U.S. dollar.

Meanwhile, the sources said the issue of a planned increase in the capital resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will not be among central issues at the Paris talks.

Instead, full-scale discussions on the IMF's ninth capital replenishment through increasing member nations' capital quota shares are expected at the IMF's interm meeting slated for May, they added.

Soviets Solicit Support for GATT Entry

OW3003142990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1238 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Soviet economic officials called on Japan Friday to support Moscow's bid to gain observer status in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) before the conclusion of the Uruguay Round at year's end, Foreign Ministry officials said. The request was put by Soviet delegation leader Ivan Ivanov, vice chairman of the State Committee on External Economic Affairs, in a meeting with a Japanese team led by Minoru Endo, Japan's ambassador for international economic affairs.

Ivanov informed Endo that Moscow wants not only observer status in the 98-nation world trade body within the year, but to join it as a full member in "several years time," officials said.

Japanese officials remained noncommittal on the Soviet request, but promised to engage the concerned government ministries and agencies in talks on the issue and to come up with a final position as soon as possible, officials said.

The Soviet Union submitted its formal application for observer status to GATT headquarters in Geneva on March 8. The application followed a pledge by U.S. President George Bush in his Malta summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last December to support Moscow's bid for observer status in GATT after the expected conclusion of the Uruguay Round in December.

But Ivanov said Moscow now wants to gain such status before the end of the round, noting that he secured a U.S. pledge to consider the proposal when he visited Washington some 10 days ago.

Endo questioned the Soviet motivation for joining GATT. He said Japan is concerned over facets of the Soviet economic system that do not mesh with the free market principles espoused by the world trade body, most notably in the areas of price mechanisms and customs procedures.

GATT aims in part to transform trade barriers into tariffs, set as percentages of prices, but prices in the Soviet Union are set by planners instead of by the market, officials point out. One Japanese official, who requested anonymity, charged that it makes little sense to admit the Soviet Union into GATT as an observer if the country is not willing to fully commit itself to free market ideals.

The Soviet officials countered in the talks that Moscow is well aware of the need for the government to undertake major changes in the country's economic structure by stages if it is to meet the stringent GATT criteria for membership. They said economic reforms are proceeding, but added that a domestic consensus has yet to be achieved on the pace of reform.

Ivanov said it is essential the Soviet Union gain rapid access to the GATT forum to study ways of making its economy more compatible with its international counterparts.

Officials said the Soviets expressed particular interest in learning about GATT regulations covering antidumping, licensing, and techical barriers to trade.

Officials said the issue of granting observer status to the Soviet Union is to be taken up in informal talks among major GATT member states.

EC Official Urges Japan To Limit Car Exports

OW3003142890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—A top trade negotiator of the European Community (EC) said here Friday that Japan should restrain its car exports to the EC within a defined time frame after the community's market integration in 1992. Although he cannot specify the duration of the time at this point, the 12-nation EC requires transitional agreements for "a gradual and progressive opening of the European market," said EC Vice President in Charge of External Relations Frans Andriessen.

Andriessen, who arrived in Japan Thursday for a three-day visit, made the comment in a press conference prior to a meeting with Kabun Muto, Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry. The EC will establish a monitoring system for Japanese car exports to the community, Andriessen said adding the details of the system have yet to be decided.

The problem of Japanese voluntary restraint on its car exports to the EC has long been on the table of discussions. The Japanese side has expressed its readiness to negotiate restraints on cars exported directly from Japan. Whether Japanese cars produced in Japanese plants in Europe should be included is a focal issue in Europe.

Asked about the definition of Japanese cars, Andriessen said he thinks they are cars produced in Japan. "Cars produced in plants in Europe are considered as European cars," he said. The EC will not impose local content requirements on Japanese cars made in Europe, because such requirement would contradict the rules of equal treatment of imports and domestic products in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), he added.

Touching on his meetings with Japanese Government and business leaders during his current visit, Andriessen said he had confirmed that any results in the structural impediments talks between Japan and the United States should not be at the expense of others. He conferred with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu earlier in the day.

Officials Agree To Start Auto Talks With EC

OW3003142290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1338 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Top trade officials from Japan and the European Community (EC) agreed Friday to start exploratory talks to achieve a completely liberalized EC car market after 1992, an official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

Frans Andriessen, visiting EC vice president in charge of external affairs, proposed the talks in a meeting with MITI head Kabun Muto, who responded positively to the proposal, Tadakatsu Sano of MITI's International Trade Policy Bureau said.

Andriessen emphasized the EC will eventually liberalize its auto market in all aspects, including production and distribution, Sano said. But the EC auto industry needs a transition period for restructuring its operations to adjust to totally free imports, Andriessen was quoted as saying. But he did not say how long such a transition period will be, Sano said.

Andriessen said the share of Japanese cars in the EC market will "progressively increase" during the transition period, Sano said.

Andriessen is acting on behalf of the community, which is profoundly at odds over the steps for liberalizing its car market after the EC's internal barriers are scrapped in 1992. Some free traders, led by West Germany, want a brief transition period, while protectionists, including France and Italy want more time. A row among EC members occurred at the recent EC ministerial meeting in Brussels over the issue.

Currently, Britain and West Germany are somewhat open to Japanese cars, but France limits imports to 3 percent of its market. Italy has a ceiling of 2,500 cars a year.

After the EC ministerial meeting, Edith Cresson, the French trade minister, said the commission had no mandate yet to negotiate formally with Tokyo. She reportedly threatened that Paris might thwart any deal which did not give EC states such as France a 10-year transition period. She also insisted that cars produced by Japanese makers within the EC be counted as direct imports from Japan.

In a meeting with Muto, Andriessen also said the outcome of the ongoing Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks between Japan and the U.S. should be applied to all of Japan's trading partners.

Andriessen also raised a question about the fairness of Japan's aviation market. He said Japan Airlines Co.'s [JAL] reported decision to buy Macdonnell Douglas Corp.'s MD11 for its next-generation mid-sized carriers over the "equally competitive" airbus is perceived in the EC as something that indicates political favoritism by Japan. Muto answered that he thinks JAL's decision was based purely on commercial and technological considerations, according to Sano.

Government To Freeze NTT Breakup Issue 5 Years

OW3003122990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0727 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The government worked out a plan on Friday to freeze debate on splitting Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) into local and long-distance service companies for five years, government sources said.

The plan, which followed negotiations among the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, calls for a review of the breakup issue in fiscal 1995. The government has adopted the plan with an eye toward the interests of NTT shareholders damaged by the slumping NTT stock price, the sources said. The Finance Ministry holds 66.8 percent of NTT shares.

Specifically, the plan calls for the need to consider refunding profits to NTT shareholders and to further relax government regulations on the telecommunications business, in addition to cost-cutting measures by NTT.

During the negotiations that continued into early Friday from Thursday evening, the Finance Ministry pressed for a withdrawal of the breakup issue, which ministry officials said is a major cause of the drop in NTT stock price. NTT stock closed at 1.13 million yen Thursday, well below 1,197,000 yen at which the government sold NTT shares to the public for the first time in 1986. The stock fetched a record high of 3.18 million yen in April 1987.

After the freeze was accepted by the government, a Finance Ministry official said, "It is quite natural to freeze debate on the breakup issue at this stage because NTT's future plan itself is ambiguous."

Finance Ministry officials hope they can dispell uncertainty over NTT's stock price and that they can carry out the planned fourth issue of NTT shares, as well as the exchange listing of Japan Railways Group and Japan Tobacco Inc. after fiscal 1991. Takashi Fukaya, minister of posts and telecommunications, said that NTT will not be split for the time being, but added, "We'll make a review on the issue in fiscal 1995, if necessary, and get a conclusion."

The Posts and Telecommunications Ministry favors the breakup of NTT as part of effective telecommunications policy. NTT welcomed the government plan. A top official said, "We could avert the worst case of breakup." The official praised the breakup freeze for including a government plan to deregulate the telecom business and for refunding profits to shareholders.

Land-Rich Politicians Dominate Kaifu Cabinet

OW3003182090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Billionaire and multimillionaire ministers, whose fortunes are rooted in real estate, dominate Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's second cabinet, a government report released Friday indicates.

Kabun Muto, minister of international trade and industry, is the wealthiest member of the cabinet, with assets amounting to 3.63 billion yen at current market value and 56.4 million yen at officially assessed price.

Assets were calculated by KYODO news service based on a government report that disclosed savings, and also the official values of real estate and stocks. Based on real estate registers and face values of stocks, the official values are substantially lower than market prices.

Muto, owner of prime Tokyo real estate valued at 3.49 billion yen, was joined by five other billionaires, including Construction Minister Tamisuke Watanuki, whose worth was pegged at 2.95 billion yen, mostly from stocks in his Toyama-based trucking service firm. Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's assets amounted to 1.3 billion yen.

Kaifu ranked 12th with his central-Tokyo apartment, which is located on some of the most expensive land in Japan. That real estate accounts for 776 million yen of his estimated 938 million yen in assets. The government report reported his assets at 97.3 million yen.

Kaifu has said stemming growing land prices is a top priority of his cabinet.

The prime minister's other real estate holdings include a house in his home prefecture of Aichi, an office and land that have a combined market value of 137 million yen.

Land prices showed double-digit increases in 46 cities last year, with the average price of a house increasing by 17 percent, according to the national land agency.

Only three members of the cabinet, formed on February 28, have assets valued at less then 100 million yen.

The least wealthy cabinet member was Posts and Telecommunications Minister Takashi Fukaya. He is the subject of an ethics investigation because he received political donations from the scandal-scarred Recruit information conglomerate, even after the company's dealings were brought into question. Fukaya's assets were valued at 65.5 million yen.

The average of all cabinet members' holdings came to 900 million yen.

The practice of publicly revealing personal assets began with former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's second cabinet in 1983 as an ethics-boosting measure in the wake of former Prime Minister Kakuei Takana's sentencing in the Lockheed bribery scandal. Nakasone later was suspected of being at the center of the Recruit Co. shares-for-favors scandal.

Komeito Party To Abandon Coalition Drive

OW3003182690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The second largest opposition party, Komeito, released Friday a draft of its 1990 action program which declares that the party will abandon negotiations to forge a coalition governemnt with other noncommunist opposition parties. The party will discuss the draft program at its national convention to be held in Tokyo on April 16, officials said.

The proposed action plan blamed the No. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP) for the stalemate in the coalition scheme among four opposition parties, saying the JSP has not made clear its stances on basic national and foreign policies.

The JSP, Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) have been talking on and off since last April on how to join forces to topple the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The talks, however, have been stalled with the two centrist parties, Komeito and the DSP, urging the JSP to adopt "realistic" stances on national security, Japan-U.S. security arrangements, policies toward the Korean peninsula and nuclear power plants.

The opposition further broke ranks after the JSP scored major gains in the February 18 general election, mostly at the expense of Komeito and the DSP.

The JSP now holds 141 seats in the House of Representatives, up from 83 before the election. Komeito has 46, down from 54, and the DSP 14, down from 25.

The draft said Komeito will do its best to rebuild the party following its defeat in the election.

Komeito will demonstrate its political originality in a "tripolar" political system in the 1990s, in which the LDP, the JSP and the centrist parties will play major but different roles, according to the proposed action policy. The action program reiterated Komeito's demand to abolish the 3 percent consumption tax introduced last April.

Referring to the ongoing structural impediments initiative (SII) talks between Japan and the United States, the program said that Komeito will seek a way different from the protectionist approach to solve the trade dispute. However, the draft action program stopped short of proposing specific measures to solve the trade problem.

Mongolia

Council Admits Need for 'Unified Archive Body'

OW3103131090 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0810 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The Mongolian Council of Ministers has considered the full statement of the previous resolutions on improvement of archive matters involved on [word indistinct] of archive finds, [word indistinct] and security of archive materials, improvement of personnel and technical supply of archives.

The government has admitted the need of having a unified archive body, and decided to (?turn over) the archive board at the Public Security Ministry to direct coordination of the Council of Ministers.

Security Minister Indicates Changes Coming

OW3103131890 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0810 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Public Security Minister of Mongolia, Lieutenant General Jamsranjab, speaking at a press conference on Friday, underlined the need of taking the Public Security Ministry out of the control of party organizations and the forming of public security and law protection bodies staffed from non-party people.

We have rejected the previous practice of upholding the interests one particular party, noted the minister. And he informs that the result of serious and deepgoing organizational and structural change in the Public Security Ministry will be obvious in a few days' time.

Social Democratic Party Opens First Congress

OW3103130890 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0810 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The first congress of Mongolian Social Democratic Party opens in Ulaanbaatar today, on 31 March. This hearing political and mandates reports [as heard], draft rules and guidelines of the party, and will take up some organizational matters.

Batbayar Elected Party Chairman

OW0204123290 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The first congress of Social Democratic Party of Mongolia has ended in Ulaanbaatar. It has discussed and approved the rules, platform, and declaration of the party.

The party platform defines a radical renewal of the society [as] the way of getting the country out of political, social, and economic crisis.

The party declaration says that the Social Democratic Party is a component part of Socialist International and comes out for permanent parliamentary mechanism and presidential power in the country. The rules of the Social Democratic Party define it an independent political organization, expressing vital interests of the people.

The congress has elected the Conference of the Social Democratic Party composed of 60 people as well as a Political Council and an Auditing Commission.

Thirty-five year old biophysicist Batbayar has been elected chairman of the Social Democratic Party.

The congress has instructed the party Political Council to work out a text of the party address to the Socialist International asking for a membership in it.

Demonstration Urges Religious Freedom

HK0204101490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0953 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Beijing, April 2 (AFP)—More than 400 Mongolians staged a demonstration for more religious freedom, while political groups in Ulaanbaatar continued to debate democratic reforms, foreign residents in the Mongolian capital said Monday.

Buddhist lamas and opposition activists from the Mongolian Democratic Party spoke out for democracy and freedom of worship during the rally Sunday outside the former Choijin Lama Monastery, the residents said. "For future flourishing of Buddhism," read the main banner hoisted at the demonstration.

Now a museum run by the Ministry of Culture, the Choijin Lama Monastery is slated to revert to its originial religious role in the near future. Tibetan Buddhism flourished in Mongolia until the 1930's when it was brutally suppressed by Stalinist dictator Horloyn Choybalsan, with tens of thousands of lamas executed. It now is enjoying a popular revival, with thousands of Ulaanbaatar residents flocking to Gandan Monastery, the nation's only functioning lamasery, to take part in regular religious festivities.

Last month Mongolian laymen contributed 5,000 tugriks (1,250 dollars) towards restoring Choijin Lama as a working monastery, said Bassan (one name), 35, a Gandan monk who is active in the democracy movement.

Talks are also taking place with the authorities to open a Buddhist school for Mongolian children eight years of age and over, Mr. Bassan said in a recent interview.

Pro-democracy groups meanwhile have been seeking agreement on a common platform for Mongolia's first multi-party elections, promised for later this year, foreign residents said.

The opposition is also locking horns with the government on two issues, they said. One is the proposed electoral system, whereby one legislator would be elected per 10,000 inhabitants in Ulaanbaatar and one per 3,000 in the countryside, where three out of four Mongolians live. The opposition finds its support among intellectuals and bureaucrats in the capital city, while the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party remains popular among the nomadic herdsmen who live in the rolling grasslands.

The opposition is also upset at the wording of a constitutional amendment which ended one-party rule by saying that Mongolians had the right to join any political party with a platform conforming with "humane, democratic socialism." Critics say that such a phrase opens the possibility that political parties which renounce socialism may not be able to take part in elections.

The ruling party is set to hold an extraordinary congress April 10, after it rejuvenated its top leadership and signed away its constitutional monopoly on power last month.

Youth Union Petitions People's Great Hural

OW0204125690 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union Central Committee has sent a petition to the People's Great Hural demanding to reconsider the election law provision, saying that citizens reaching the age of 23 enjoy the right to be elected to the People's Great Hural. They demand to establish the age minimum to be elected a deputy to the People's Great Hural as 18. They note that the given provision flagrantly violates the rights of over 200,000 young electors not reaching the age of 23 who constitute 15 percent of all electorate. Today young people below 35 constitute over 18 percent of the population in Mongolia, notes the petition.

The Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union Central Committee intends to get a reply to its petition before April the 4th, the opening day of an extraordinary congress of the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union.

Journalists' Union Dismisses Leaders

LD0104084990 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0251 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Ulanbaataar (ADN Correspondent]— At a weekend session, the executive of the Mongolian Union of Journalists has dismissed its chairman, his deputy, and six secretaries. At the same time, it will convene the union's sixth congress this April. A special commission of 24 staff members from the central media has been instructed to attend to its preparation. It is headed by Chorloogiyn Tseblee, first deputy of the editor in chief of UNEN, the paper of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP). The resolutions were adopted as a result of protests from many journalists.

The participants in the session advocated that the mass media be turned into instruments of social control. The union is to be changed into an independent professional organization which looks after the interests of all journalists and will be in charge of training newcomers.

Economic Restructuring Questioned, Measures Noted

OW3103133690 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0810 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Thursday's issue of the daily UNEN raises the problem of eliminating the mechanism of [word indistinct] that hampers the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party policy of renewal and reconstruction. The paper points to slow rate of implementation of economic methods of management, outdatedness of some laws and measures involved, and inflexibility of the long-term planning and [words indistinct]. The paper points to the need of structuring the management operators with competent cadres, introducing market relations into economy, and circulating party and state functions so that in any square (?considerate) responsibilities are thorough.

The daily UNEN carries a talk of its consignment with the newly appointed deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Mongolia, Mr. Tserensambuu, who is responsible for market in foreign economic relations. Marketing and [word indistinct] in foreign economic activity will be directed at summation in mass reproduction that had made the country self-sufficient, says Mr. Tserensambuu. Measures will be taken to turn over the development of market in all capital funds.

Agricultural cooperatives will be given more independence and entitled to much greater care in helping [words indistinct]. Partiality will also be given to improving commodity supply to rural populations and increasing the volume of trade service, notes Tserensambuu.

In this state of foreign economic relations, Mongolia will expand its traditional relations with the Comecon countries, and expand economic and political operations with the People's Republic of China, says Deputy Prime Minister Tserensambuu.

North Korea

Kim Il-song Nominated for SPA Deputy Election

SK0104044490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has been nominated as a candidate to the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] deputy election.

At this turbulent period when the entire country, upholding the great leader's New Year address for this year and the decision at the 17th plenary session of the Sixth Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, is vigorously waging a struggle to create the speed of the nineties, the work of nominating candidates for the election of deputies to the Ninth SPA started. The working class and workers in Nagwon, a land of honor that has turned into a magnificent large-scale machine manufacturing base in our country, arranged a meeting of voters for the first time and had the great honor of nominating the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song as a candidate for the SPA deputy election.

On the morning of 1 April, a meeting of voters for No. 205 Nagwon Election District was held to nominate a candidate for the post of deputy to the SPA. [passage omitted]

Details of Nomination Reported

SK0104085390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0820 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—The nomination of candidates for the elections of deputies to the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea slated for April 22 has started amid a high degree of political enthusiasm of the entire people.

The workers of Nakwon, a leading producer of large machinery in Korea, held a voters' meeting and nominated the great leader President Kim Il-song as a candidate for deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly.

A voters' meeting of the Nakwon constituency No.205 to nominate candidates for deputies to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly was held at the Nakwon machine complex today.

More than 30,000 working people of all strata including the workers of the Nakwon machine complex and the August 9 factory and members of nearby cooperative farms gathered at the meeting place.

Seen in the meeting place was a portrait of the great leader comrade Kim Il-song.

Set up there were slogan boards reading: "Long live the worker-peasant revolutionary government which was founded and is led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song!" and "Let's meet the election to the Supreme People's Assembly with a high degree of political enthusiasm and shining success in labour!" and other slogans.

Participating in the meeting were Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Central Election Committee; Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premier of the Administration Council; Cho Se-ung, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial People's Committee; and Chi Ghang-ik, secretary of the Central People's Committee and vice-chairman of the Central Election Committee; and others. Choe Kyong-se, chief secretary of the South District Party Committee and chairman of the South District People's Committee of Sinuiju, who is chairman of the Nakwon constituency No. 205 election committee, made a report at the meeting.

He said:

The elections of deputies to the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly is a great event in consolidating as firm as a rock the government of the Republic, the defender of our people's independent rights and a powerful weapon of socialist construction, and accelerating the revolutionary struggle and construction work of our people.

Under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song our people's government has creditably discharged its historical mission and turned the country into a prosperous socialist industrial state with a most advanced socialist system, a powerful independent national economy and an efflorescing national culture since it was founded as a chuche-based revolutionary government.

Under the wise leadership of our party the government of the republic is now pushing ahead with the work of transforming all domains of social life as required by the chuche idea and, in this gigantic struggle, the cause of building peculiar socialism of our own style is being successfully accelerated.

A new history of proud creation and change is being unfolded also in Nakwon under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, the reporter stated, and went on:

The great leader visited Nakwon more than ten times and gave highly important teachings on hundreds of occasions in his wise guidance to bring about changes in all fields. And it must be noted that he has shown deep trust and love to the workers of Nakwon.

The era of the Workers' Party today when the people enjoy happiness to the full under the people's government and the socialist system established by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and when the might of the socialist motherland is growing in strength day by day under the leadership of our party is an age of prosperity unprecedented in the history of our country and an age of glory in which the honor and dignity of the Korean nation is shedding rays all over the world, the reporter stressed.

Then, the meeting began nominating candidates for deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly.

Pak To-un, chief secretary of the party committee of the Nakwon machine complex, obtained the floor.

Representing the unanimous desire and will of the entire voters of the Nakwon constituency and the Korean people, he solemnly proposed to nominate the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song who has been devoting his whole life to the noble cause of the liberation and development and prosperity of the country, has brought to the Korean people the unbounded glory and happiness today and has wisely led the revolutionary cause of chuche to victory, as a candidate for deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK at the Nakwon constituency No. 205.

His proposal was warmly supported and welcomed by the participants in the meeting.

They shouted "hurrah" with unbounded trust and reverence for the great leader.

Representatives of people of various strata took the floor.

The meeting proudly declared that the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song, a genius of revolution, legendary hero and the sun of the nation, was nominated as a candidate for deputy to the SPA at the Nakwon constituency No. 205, at the unanimous wishes and absolute will of the entire voers.

It adopted a letter to President Kim Il-song amid the thunderous applause and cheers of the participants.

NODONG SINMUN Cites Kim Il-song Works

1955 Work on Class Education

SK3003111090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 30 Mar 90

["NODONG SINMUN on Intensifying Class Education and Developing and Completing Socialist Society"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—Historical experience confirms that, with socialist construction progressing, we should steadily strengthen class education and only by doing so can we develop and complete socialist society in conformity with its nature, stresses NODONG SINMUN today.

The daily dedicates an article to the 35th anniversary of the publication of the classical work of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song "On Intensifying Class Education for Party Members" (April 1, 1955), which points out that our party has consistently intensified class education as an important work, thereby advancing the revolution and construction without the slightest deviation or twists and turns.

The work extensively propounds the theoretical and practical questions raised in class education such as the need to intensify class education among the party members and working people, its tasks and ways on the basis of a scientific analysis of the character of our revolution and the basic tasks of the party.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has said:

"Only by intensifying class education in the party and among all the people can we prevent our people from being contaminated with reactionary ideas and carry out socialist construction successfully in the northern half of the Republic."

Only by intensifying class education can we rear people into people of communist type firmly armed with the consciousness of the working class and transform all aspects of society as required by the working class by strictly adhering to the working class viewpoint and stand.

Moreover, at a time when the imperialists are increasing political and military pressure, tightening economic blockade and intensifying ideological and cultural infiltration in an attempt to turn back the socialist countries we can see and judge everything from the working class viewpoint and stand only when we enhance class consciousness through intensified class education.

The article outlines problems of principle on which our party keeps a tight hold in strengthening class education.

The working class nature is the life and soul of the party.

The subject of our revolution has become the most solid integrated whole because the working class nature of the party has increased and the popular masses have become a people of pure heart based on a high degree of class consciousness, free from any heterogeneous ideas.

We have transformed economy in keeping with the demand of the working class by intensifying class education and raising the viewpoint of the working class.

Keenly alive to the superiority of the socialist economic system through the class education over a long period, our people despise the imperialists' outcries about the "superiority" of the capitalist economy and are constantly increasing the working class character in economic management without the slightest vacillation.

To strengthen class education is a fundamental demand for the establishment of a sound and simple style of cultural life.

The imperialists are concentrating efforts on the infiltration of corrupt bourgeois way of life into socialist countries in an attempt to disintegrate socialism from within. The bourgeois way of life dazzles people, especially the rising generation, and mentally cripples them and thus corrodes society from within.

So, it is an important problem in safeguarding socialism to prevent the infiltration of the bourgeois way of life.

Today our people, with their high working class consciousness, strictly oppose and reject the bourgeois way of life and prevent the infiltration of its slightest element. The young people of Korea are a new generation who did not experience exploitation or oppression. But the bourgeois way of life can never contaminate them. They are vigorously working, espousing a simple yet cultured life.

1980 Light Industry Publication

SK3103104790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 31 Mar 90

["Highly Important Guideline for Development of Light Industry"—KCNA headline]

[Txt] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today marks the tenth anniversary of the publication of "Let Us Increase the Standard of Living of the People Through the Development of the Textile, Food and Consumer Goods Industries," a work of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The work elaborates on the need to solve the problem of raw materials for textile industry through the increased production of vinalon, staple fibre and other chemical fibres in compliance with the specific conditions of the country so as to maintain steady production and produce a larger quantity of quality cloth and knitwear.

It indicates tasks and ways to increase the production of various kinds of consumer goods and processed foodstuffs which cater to the demands of our people by bringing about a radical turn in the consumer goods and food industries and supply raw and other materials necessary for this. The work clearly indicates the tasks to further develop the textile, food processing and consumer goods industries in reliance on domestic raw materials by carrying out the chuche-orientation of the national economy.

It is a highly important work which indicates a way of rapidly developing the light industry for a significant improvement of the people's living in a short span of time, says the signed article. It continues:

Ten years have passed since the publication of the work. In this period the material and technical foundations of our textile, food processing and consumer goods industries have become very powerful and their production potential has grown still further.

If the revolution in light industry is steadily carried on and the existing foundations of textile industry are used more effectively, is it fully possible to hit the textile targets for this year and for the near future. And if the food processing and consumer goods factories pay off more profusely, the people's diet and their cultural life will be put on a higher level.

Chuche Lauded as Tool for Independence

SK2903112690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0006 GMT 25 Mar 90

[NODONG SINMUN 25 March special article: "The Chuche Idea Is a Revolutionary Ideology Which Has Given a Profound Elucidation on Independence"]

[Text] Our party is proving the greatness of the chuche idea through its creative ideological and theoretical activities, and it is continuing to develop and enrich it with new themes and principles.

In this course, it has been clarified that the chuche idea is great because it has illuminated the way to the popular masses' independence. At the same time, a profound elucidation has been given on independence. This is of great significance.

The value of an ideology and its progressiveness depend on its scientific elucidation of the question for the popular masses' destiny. In general, the question of man's destiny, the destiny of the popular masses, is a matter of people's chief interest. The question encompasses the matters pertaining to the essence of man's destiny, its master, and the inevitability of its development. If the truth that the master of man's destiny is man himself is clarified, the people will struggle to develop by firmly holding it in their hands.

For the first time in history, the chuche idea has elucidated the philosophical principle that man is the master of the world and plays a decisive role in remaking the world. The chuche idea also has scientifically illuminated the way to shape the destiny of the popular masses through their own effort. The truth of the chuche idea that the popular masses are the masters of their destiny and that they have a decisive power to develop it is based on the profound elucidation of independence.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has given comprehensive answers to all the theoretical and practical questions which arise in advocating and realizing the popular masses' independence. He also has monolithically systematized the theory on the popular masses' independence.

In this course, in particular, a scientific definition has been made to explain that independence is the basic concept of the chuche idea. This is an outstanding ideological and theoretical achievement.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the party, has noted: Independence is the basic concept of the chuche idea. It also is the notion which explains the intrinsic characteristic of man. By defining independence as the intrinsic characteristic of man and saying that it is the fundamental dignity of the country and nation, the chuche idea has become a powerful tool in the people's struggle to oppose all forms of domination and submission and to advocate and realize independence.

An adequate elucidation of independence is important in proving the greatness of the chuche idea and its truth as a revolutionary ideology indicating the way to develop the popular masses' destiny.

The fact that independence is the basic concept of the chuche idea means that independence takes the most important place in the system of the chuche idea and in its content, and that this has been a foundation which helped the creation of the chuche idea, its development, and the establishment of its monolithic system. Thus, the word independence intensively shows the essence of the chuche idea and its truth.

Independence is the characteristic of social human beings which desire to live a free life and to move forward without any subjugation. It is by being independent that man becomes the most powerful being in the world of materialism, participates in the revolutionary struggle, and becomes the master of his destiny.

Without the comprehension of independence, it is not possible to establish a correct outlook on the world, an attitude toward the revolution, and a scientific point of view over man's destiny.

The concept of independence shows the truth of the chuche idea that man is the master of his destiny, and it is based on the concept of independence that the chuche-oriented outlook on the world, the outlook on the revolution, and the point of view over man's destiny converge in a single point of view.

Independence is the most comprehensive content of the chuche idea. While being used as a word which shows the characteristic of social human beings and as a social and political concept on the dignity of the country and nation, the word independence scientifically shows the inevitability of the development of man's destiny.

Today, as a mighty tool in the struggle to realize man's independence and defend national sovereignty, the chuche idea displays its great vitality in our revolution and construction. This would not have been possible if there had not been a profound elucidation of independence.

An adequate elucidation of the ideology and theory on the popular masses' independence is very important, first of all, in correctly realizing the relations between man and the world and in establishing a scientific outlook on the world. Man's destiny is decided in his relations with the world. Accordingly, a correct understanding of the relations between man and the world is important in shaping the popular masses' destiny through their own effort.

Independence is a philosophical concept on the intrinsic characteristic of social human beings. Only through a scientific comprehension of man's independence will it be possible to grasp the revolutionary nature of the philosophical outlook on the world elucidated by the chuche idea.

The chuche idea is a perfect revolutionary ideology which specifies that the basic mission of the revolution is to advocate and realize independence, which is the very existence of social human beings. The chuche idea urges the continued carrying out of the revolution until it is completely realized. It is a great revolutionary theory which turns the people into the masters of the world and the masters of their own destiny by thoroughly remaking nature, society, and people according to man's social instinct to live and move forward independently, and which illuminates the way to the everlasting happiness and prosperity of mankind. Only through a profound comprehension of man's independence can such a revolutionary nature of the chuche idea and its greatness be deeply realized.

For the first time in history, by considering man in social relations, the chuche idea has given a profound elucidation that independence, creativeness, and consciousness are man's intrinsic characteristics. Man can be freed from the yoke of nature, and can become the master of his destiny by struggling against social subjugation. This is precisely because man thinks that independence is his very existence.

If independence were not man's intrinsic characteristic, it would have been impossible for man to take his position as the master of the world and to play his decisive role in the development of the world. Based only on the theory that independence is man's intrinsic characteristic, it has been possible to establish a new chuche-oriented outlook on the world that man is the master of the world and plays a decisive role in the world's development.

This theory has enabled the party members and working people to deeply realize the greatness of the chuche idea and its profoundness, which has enhanced man's position and value to the highest degree. It also has enabled them to adopt an outlook and attitude with which they will deal with all matters and phenomena independently and will act creatively. The elucidation of the ideology and theory that independence is man's intrinsic characteristic is important also in arming the party members and working people with the social and historic principles of the chuche idea.

If man's instinct for independence is scientifically grasped, it is possible to deeply realize that the driving force of social movement as well as the motive of the movement both lie in man. It is precisely based on this elucidation that the party members and working people have come to grasp the essence of society and the inevitability of its change and development by placing man at the center. Because of this elucidation, party members and working people have come to the profound realization that, based on the inevitability of the development of society, our socialist society is inherently superior and our party's lines and policies are correct.

An adequate elucidation of the ideology and theory on the popular masses' independence also shows that the source of the popular masses' existence itself lies in the leader, the party, and the masses being formed into a single social and political organic body. It represents an important conceptual and educational function in making the people firmly establish a chuche-oriented outlook on the revolution.

Independence is an important concept not only in studying the relations between man and the world, but also in studying the relations between the revolution and the popular masses. Independence is man's intrinsic characteristic which shows the basic trait of the popular masses as a solid social and political group. The chuche idea shows the truth that each individual's independence is materialized into collective independence through a single social and political organic body.

The existence of the popular masses as a social and political group after they achieve independence and after they become creative is attributable to the fact that the masses are linked with the leader and party by the same destiny. All members of the popular masses can enjoy the political existence of eternal life and can live a true life only by becoming a member of the social and political organic body—the unified body of the leader, party, and masses.

Through the elucidation of this principle, it has been clarified that the invincibility of the socialist system of our country importantly comes from the leader, party, and masses being formed into a single unified body. Thanks to this scientific elucidation, our party members and working people today maintain a firm faith in the socialist system of our country which has come into reality by the chuche idea. Through the elucidation of the popular masses' independent life, we have come to deeply realize the truth that individual destiny and collective destiny are the same. We also have come to realize that being boundlessly loyal to the party and leader is a basic demand of our social and political life.

Today, by regarding the loyalty to the party and leader as a noble demand of their life, our party members and working people are persistently struggling under the leadership of the party and leader. This has happened thanks to the fact that they are firmly establishing the chuche-oriented outlook on the revolution by deeply realizing the principle of the existence of the popular masses.

The importance of the ideology and theory on the popular masses' independence is to make the party member and working people vigorously turn out in the struggle to correctly shape the destiny of the country and nation. Independence, while being elucidated as a philosophical concept on the characteristic of social human beings, is elucidated also as a social and political concept to explain the existence of the country and nation.

Independence is the country's and nation's existence itself. If the state fails to maintain its independence, it cannot assume responsibility for the destiny of its people, nor can it free itself from submission and subjugation in its relations with foreign countries. Only by maintaining political independence can the party and state establish line and policy according to the interests of their country, nation, and people and invariably implement them by relying on the effort of their people.

The history of the struggle of our people, who have traversed the single path of triumph and glory, clearly shows that the people, who establish their own identity by regarding the independence of the country and nation as precious as their life and who accelerate the revolution and construction independently and creatively, are invincible and ever victorious.

We should even more deeply study and understand the ideology and theory on the independence of the popular masses by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il. By so doing, we should take the chuche idea as our firm faith and vigorously push ahead with the revolution and construction according to its demand.

Red Cross Spokesman Denounces Counterparts

SK3003105090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea answered a question of a KCNA reporter on the failure to send a letter of the North side's preparatory committee for the nationwide meeting addressed to the South Korean "Coalition for National Democratic Movement" (Chonminnyon) owing to the insincere attitude of the South Korean Red Cross.

The spokesman said:

As already reported, the acting chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, at the request of the North side's preparatory committee for the nationwide meeting, sent a telephone message to the president of the South Korean Red Cross, notifying him that two liaison officials will be at the conference room of the Neutral Nation's Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom on March 29 to convey a letter to the Coalition for National Democratic Movement (Chonminnyon) of South Korea and asking the South side to take a corresponding step.

The South Korean Red Cross, however, on the instructions of its "government," took an improper attitude, refusing to take over our letter under utterly absurd pretext.

This left us no alternative but to send through radio our letter intended for Chonminnyon.

The attitude of the South Korean Red Cross this time is an impudent and inhumanitarian act which can never be pardoned either from the moral point of view or in view of the spirit of Red Cross humanitarianism.

There are good precedents that the Red Cross organisations of the two sides came to mutual understanding in the past period, giving and taking telephone [word indistinct] through the Red Cross hotline, the only channel between the North and the South, and conveying letters, at the request of organisations and agencies.

Moreover, we intended this time to send a letter to Chonminnyon, a lawful dissident democratic organisation that actually exists in South Korea, and suggested a meeting with it to discuss the question of reunification, an urgent task of the whole nation.

If the Red Cross hotline were used for the promotion of national unity and we Red Cross officials helped toward the acceleration of the reunification of the country, there would be no worthier work than this.

We Red Cross officials living on the soil of Korea regard it our noblest duty to alleviate, above all, the sufferings of fellow countrymen from division and accelerate reunification and deem it our bounden duty to make our utmost efforts for its realisation.

The South Korean Red Cross, however, refused even to convey a letter, thus stripping itself naked as a band of hooligans who know no etiquette or morality and a group opposed to reunification which ignores the desire of the nation for reunification.

By stating that it would not take over the letter on the instructions of the "government" the South Korean Red Cross vividly showed that it serves the authorities seeking division and confrontation as their tool and waiting maid, devoid of any independence and power.

Moreover, the fact that even correspondence between Red Cross organizations is controlled by the authorities and it must be approved by them in South Korea makes one see clearly what a closed society unfit for human habitation South Korea is and what a barbarous, inhumane fascist dictatorial "regime" the South Korean "regime" is.

The No Tae-u fascist "regime" is, in actuality, monopolizing North-South dialogue and negotiations under the name of "unified channel of dialogue" and ruthlessly suppressing even the debate on reunification between civilians.

It is only pursuing its policy of of seclusion and separation no matter what a large number of democrats and messengers of reunification may suffer and perish behind the bars, no matter what dark clouds of nuclear holocaust may hover over the heads of the fellow countrymen and no matter how strictly the concrete wall tighter than the borderline blocks free travel and full-scale opening between the North and the South.

We cannot but deplore the fact that the South Korean authorities, still failing to abandon their outmoded way of thinking of confrontation even in the 1990's, keep the door tightly closed and are forcing a fascist bayonet rule on the people internally and are externally resorting to such treacherous acts as seeking confrontation with our Republic and barring even correspondence between fellow countrymen.

By following the closed-door policy of barring even correspondence between civilians the South Korean rulers revealed of their own accord that their talk about "agreement on communications" is a lie.

We take this opportunity of reminding the South Korean Red Cross that there would be no future for it, if it continued to blindly follow the fascist authorities, serving them as a waiting maid.

The South Korean Red Cross will be held wholly responsible over the grave obstacle laid in the way of smooth operation of the Red Cross hotline in the future in consequence of its refusal to take over our letter this time.

Article Analyzes Aim of ROK's Northern Policy

SK3103105290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 31 Mar 90

["What South Korean Puppets Seek in 'Nordpolitik'?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today exposes what the South Korean puppets seek in their "nordpolitik" to which they persistently resort with much talk about "improvement of relations" with socialist countries, at the instigation of U.S. imperialism.

The article says:

It is aimed, above all, at getting "recognition" from socialist countries and thereby pulling down the "wall of socialism" which has blocked their "entry into the United Nations" and making a breakthrough in the creation of "two Koreas."

"Nordpolitik" is an offspring of the U.S. imperialists' "two Koreas" plot.

It is an invariable aggressive policy of U.S. imperialism toward Korea to freeze the division of Korea, create "two Koreas" and keep hold on South Korea as a permanent colony and military base and a strategic stronghold of theirs. Hence, there arose the need to paint the South Korean puppet regime as an "independent state" and, urged by this need, the U.S. imperialists put this "nordpolitik" in the hands of the South Korean puppets.

Another aim the U.S. imperialists had in mind when they let the South Korean puppets peddle it is to infiltrate the puppets into socialist countries to disorganize them from within and drive a wedge between them and thus open a favorable phase for smashing them by piecemeal.

Taking hold of South Korea as an anti-communist fort and a nuclear military base of theirs, the U.S. imperialists are maneuvering to obstruct our people's cause of national reunification and socialist construction and to tarnish the image of our Republic and isolate it internationally. And they are trying by hook or by crook to turn South Korea into an economic and political base against socialism, demonstrate the "superiority" of capitalism and keep off the attraction of socialism on the Korean peninsula.

The No Tae-u group is showing extra zeal in carrying this aggressive scheme of U.S. imperialism into practice through "nordpolitik."

One of the reasons why the No group is getting so overheated in pursuing "nordpolitik" is that it wants to deliver itself from its political and economic crisis.

By scoring "success" in their "nordpolitik" the military fascists intend to improve their image before the people, appease the people's struggle for independence, democracy and reunification which is gaining momentum with each passing day, and thus bolster up the fascist dictatorial system.

The puppets also seek through the "nordpolitik" the aim to secure foreign markets and "defuse" the catastrophic crisis of the colonial economy which is thoroughly dependent on the United States and Japan.

The No group's "nordpolitik" which is contrary to the people's desire for reunification will bump into opposition from the entire Korean people who want peace and reunification of the country and the world's progressives and end in failure, stresses the article.

No's Remarks on 'Groundless Optimism' Assailed

SK0104083690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0814 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—The traitor No Tae-u March 29 gave a "lecture at the national meeting of the "Reservists Association," a group of hooligans discharged from the puppet army, crying that "any illusion and groundless optimism regarding security and the reunification question should be ruled out," according to a radio report from Seoul.

On the same day he called new students of universities and their parents to "Chongwadae" and jabbered to them that young people should not be obsessed by the leftist ideology to "get embroiled in what is happening."

This is an outcry betraying the anti-national, anti-reunification treacherous nature of the splittist, and this proves that "dialogue," "opening" and "reunification" on the lips of the traitor No Tae-u are all sham and camouflage slogans.

The reunification question is an important matter concerning the destiny of the nation and to solve it is the supreme national task the solution of which brooks no moment's delay.

The outcry made by the traitor No Tae-u this time in utter disregard of the fact betrays his ulterior intention to get the "security of his regime" guaranteed by the U.S. imperialists, his master, in reward for keeping the country bisected for ever by following their "two Koreas" plot.

As to the "leftist ideology," it means the chuche idea which South Korean youth and students ardently espouse. It is their inviolable sacred right for them to judge actual problems from the stand of masters as taught by the chuche idea and take an active part in the reunification movement.

No Tae-u is bound to meet a doom sooner or later if he continues making flunkeyist, treacherous, anti-national and anti-reunification outcries.

Pardon Reportedly Proves KAL Bombing 'Staged'

SK3103110890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 31 Mar 90

["Clumsy Drama Uncovered"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets now scheme to spare the life of "Kim Hyon-hui" advertised as a "culprit" involved in the KAL [Korean Air Lines] incident, and further use her for their anti-North propaganda.

According to a report, the puppets on March 27 announced that although the "Supreme Court" had sentenced the "criminal" allegedly responsible for blowing up the jetliner to death they intend not to execute the death sentence but to spare her life by a "presidential special pardon," taking into consideration her "confession" and "conversion."

This is, indeed, an eccentric, unreasonable behavior.

As was already exposed, as far as the KAL incident in late November 1987 is concerned, it was a self-made drama of the puppets themselves which had nothing to do with us; it was a shocking incident they fabricated and connected with us for the purpose of defusing their ruling crisis which was taking a turn for the worse after the June people's resistance in South Korea.

After the incident was reported, the puppets made quite a noise in an effort to lay the blame for it at our door, publishing "investigation results" and staging a "trial." However, it could not convince the public but only excited people's suspicions.

The "investigation results" published by the puppets were a fake full of falsity, deception and contradictions, and the "trial" staged by them was a mere shift of the theatre of the clumsy drama to the court.

The puppets tried to make their plot a fait accompli through the false "testimony" of a marionette of their own choice, while failing to explain where the airliner went missing and what was the cause of it, neglecting the search of its wreckage and failing to present any material evidence. How can this far-fetched attempt go down with anyone in this bright world?"

It is not fortuitous that from the very beginning the world public branded the KAL incident as "a self-made drama of the South Korean authorities," as "a farce full of fraud, deception and contradictions.

The fact that the KAL incident was their self-made drama is also borne out by their treatment of the girl presented as a "criminal."

South Korean media reported that after death sentence was passed on her, she, far from being detained, is living a luxurious life in a "safe house" specially arranged by the "Security Planning Board," going round the city by car and going to theatres.

If she was really "an agent of the North," how can the puppets do her such favor?

The puppets indicted without physical restraint her whom they call "an agent of the North," while keeping behind bars Rev. Mun Ik-hwan in his advanced age of 70, who visited the northern half of the country for national reunification, in spite of the fact that he can hardly move for "his disease which needs utmost rest" and in defiance of the people's demand for an "indictment without physical restraint" at least. These are acts quite contrary to each other.

The South Korean rulers are scheming to grant a "special pardon" to her before the world public, adducing the reason of her "confession" and "conversion." This fully shows what sort of a woman "Kim Hyon-hui" is and by whom the airplane incident was caused.

If "Kim Hyon-hui" is really the "criminal" who killed so many people by exploding an airliner, she should be punished, irrespective of reason.

As puppets themselves clinched all the judicial formalities after confirming the death sentence on her on seven points of charges including "murder for the fulfilment of an order" under the "National Security Law" if these were true, they would not feel their hand tremble or a prick of conscience in executing her.

If she is a condemned criminal who committed so monstrous a "murder," nobody can pardon her.

To leave alive a murderer who killed far more than a hundred people at a time is an act without precedent in the world history of laws; it must be an unpardonable mockery of opinion at home and abroad and a dual harm to the victims and their families.

All the facts irrefutably prove that the KAL incident was an anti-DPRK drama stage-managed by the traitor No Tae-u premeditatedly for his sinister political purpose with the puppet presidential elections as an occasion, and the "criminal who blew up the plane" they presented as an "agent of the North" is "an agent of the South" chosen by the "Security Planning Board." By leaving alive "Kim Hyon-hui," whom they have used as the marionette of the drama, the No Tae-u clique intends to continuously use her in their anti-DPRK smear campaign as "a living model" of their anti-communist education and as "a living witness" of the KAL incident as they would use their favorite trump card.

But the truth of the KAL incident had already been dragged into the light of day and the "special pardon" means their own declaration of its total bankruptcy. Therefore, the "criminal" whom they intend to leave alive will be only an evidence of the meanness and shamelessness of the puppets steeped in anti-communist intrigues. History will certainly settle the account as regards the never-to-be condoned crime of the No group in killing over 110 innocent people by exploding a KAL plane to satisfy his greed for power by abusing the incident in North-South confrontation.

No Tae-u, though belatedly, should admit that the KAL incident was a drama invented by him for his "election as president" and apologize to the nation.

ROK Using Dialogue for 'Sinister' Purpose

SK3103041790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 31 Mar 90

["South Korean Authorities Must Not Use Dialogue and Reunification Question for Sinister Political Purpose"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland released its Information No. 565 on March 30 to denounce the No Tae-u group for trying to use dialogue and the reunification question for a sinister political purpose.

The information says:

Although the South Korean authorities claim that they welcome "opening" and "travel," they are now "examining" applications for visit to the northern half of the country case by case, "approving" those in their favor and "turning down" those going against the grain with them.

This is an unpardonable criminal act to use contact and dialogue between the fellow countrymen for a sinister political purpose, the information says, and continues:

The South Korean authorities' "examination" to keep any people from visiting the northern half of the country without their "approval" is an anti-reunification act to maintain their monopoly of dialogue and the reunification issue and use them for the creation of "two Koreas."

The South Korean authorities punished those people who went back after visiting the northern half of the country and stubbornly blocked the road of people of all strata of wide-range dialogue and contact between people of various strata by invoking the anti-reunification "National Security Law" under the cloak of "unified channel of dialogue." This proves that they are pursuing the policy of closing the door to the North and sticking to the stand of confrontation and division.

ROK Accused of Conducting 'Fascist' Crackdown

SK3003110090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—The puppet police headquarters on March 27 called together chiefs of police bureaux, police stations and riot police units across South Korea and issued a repressive order to "strictly exercise government power against all illegal acts of violence."

And the puppet Home Ministry on March 26 transferred more than 3,800 men of Seoul and other "metropolitan" and municipal police bureaux and police stations to police booths and ordered them to intensify "foot patrols" by twos in residential quarters and streets.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today brands this as a criminal act to cover whole areas of South Korea with a repressive force and put down the labour movement, the student movement and other mass struggles at the point of the bayonet.

It is only too natural that the struggle of the masses involving workers and students should gain momentum in the spring because it is a product of the misrule of the puppets themselves, remarks the news analyst.

He notes: After the "political restructuring" the No Tae-u group has become more blatant in suppressing the people who call for independence, democracy, reunification and their vital rights at the point of the bayonet, while further fascistizing the society, and is pushing the fascist "security-oriented politics" to a more grave phase.

The more undisguised the fascist clique becomes in the crackdown, the higher the South Korean people including workers and students will hold the banner of struggle. They will bring down a sledge hammer on the heads of the fascist dictators by pooling their strength.

MINJU CHOSON on Tunnel Probe Proposal

SK3103104490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—The refusal of a joint investigation on the part of the South Korean authorities is an anti-reunification and anti-national behaviour to leave the concrete wall as it is at any cost, oppose free travel and complete opening and keep the South Korean society closed, declares "MINJU CHOSON" in its commentary today.

The news analyst says:

Our proposal to make a survey by forming a joint investigation is intended to have the concrete wall pulled down and realize free travel and full-scale opening between the North and the South at an early date. It is a reasonable measure and a just proposal which is in full accord with the desire of the whole nation.

By turning down our proposal to confirm whether the concrete wall exists, or not, the South authorities virtually admitted its existence.

By this refusal they stripped themselves bare as an enemy of reunification and a separatist.

They cannot evade indefinitely the demand of all the fellow countrymen and the world peaceloving people for the removal of the concrete wall. They must admit, though belatedly, the existence of the concrete wall and make a decisive decision to destroy it at once. If they persistently seek confrontation and division, refusing this, they will face a stern punishment by the nation.

Tunnel Labeled 'Fabrication,' 'Blackest Lie'

SK0204054890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0532 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a commentary denouncing the South Korean media for continuing to circulate groundless reports on the issue of a joint investigation into the "fourth tunnel", serving the United States and the puppet authorities as a paid trumpeter.

The news analyst says:

"Radio No. 1" of South Korea reported on March 26 that the senior member of the United States side to the Military Armistice Commission notified the North side that "it will wholy accept the proposal made by the North side to dispatch a 60-member fact-finding group to the spot of the 'fourth tunnel' on board four helicopters for investigating it." On the 27th, it broadcast a false report that the North side refused the joint investigation, reversing the fact.

This is a sheer fabrication and the blackest lie.

Citing facts proving that the United States turned down the offer of the North to dispatch its large fact-finding group, the paper continues:

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets who have no intention to conduct a joint investigation into the "tunnel" are these days resorting to a false propaganda by setting paid media in motion. In this, they seek to evade responsibility for refusing a large-scale joint investigation by pretending to be interested in it and gain time to invent a new trick. This is also a clumsy gamble to shift the blame for the "tunnel" incident on to us and attain what they had sought in it by presenting it as a "tunnel for invading the South" through faked-up reports, at the moment when they can no longer pin hope on the "tunnel" which has become useless with its seamy side brought into the open.

It is a betrayal of the intrinsic mission of the press and a mockery of the world opinion for some media of South Korea to report false materials supplied by the tricksters without inquiring into the incident.

The U.S. imperialists, the South Korean rulers and their paid media should act with discretion, clearly seeing that they can get nothing from the "tunnel" gamble.

Foreign Figure Brands Tunnel 'Despicable Drama'

SK3003152390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—Guy Dupre, secretary general of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea, in a statement issued to the press on March 22 branded the "fourth tunnel" incident as a despicable drama fabricated by the South Korean authorities to divert the attention of the world away from the provocative "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises.

He charged that the South Korean authorities are resorting to false propaganda against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in an effort to conceal their fascist and aggressive policy.

The South Korean authorities uttered inconsistent words full of contradictions and rejected a joint investigation proposed by the North, thus making it plain by themselves that the incident is an out-and-out self-made drama, he said, and stressed:

The South Korean authorities fabricated the "tunnel" incident at a time when a new reunification proposal for the removal of the wall and for free travel and full-scale opening was advanced. This shows that they are not interested at all in national reunification.

Foreign Embassy Officials View 'Concrete Wall'

SK0204055290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0527 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—Trade officials of foreign embassies and officials of trade missions here visited Panmunjom and saw the concrete wall on March 31.

Seeing the high concrete wall built by the United States and the South Korean authorities in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line from the east to the west, the guests said the wall of division must be removed as soon as possible and free travel and full-scale opening between the North and the South be realised.

Zhao Renjie, councillor of the Chinese Embassy, said he saw for himself the concrete wall and knew well that the claim of the South Korean authorities that there is no concrete wall was a lie.

The concrete wall, a symbol of North-South confrontation and division, must be demolished at an early date and Korea must be reunified, he added.

Noting that President Kim Il-song in his New Year address advanced a new reunification proposal for pulling down the concrete wall and realising free travel and full-scale opening between the North and the South, he stressed: We fully support all the proposals for national reunification put forward by him and the Workers' Party of Korea.

A.S. Vostrokov, an official of the Soviet trade mission here, said that the South side should rather respond to the proposal of the North side for removing the wall of division built by the South side and realising full-scale opening and free travel than insist that there is no concrete wall which, however, really exists.

Wladyslaw Berek, commercial councillor of the Polish Embassy, said the man-made concrete wall will surely be pulled down and Korea be reunified.

Worldwide Opinion Against 'Team Spirit' Noted

SK3003105490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—The Cuban Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification in a statement March 23 pungently denounced with the unanimous resentment of the Cuban people the provocative "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises being staged by the United States and the South Korean puppets.

The United States and the South Korean puppets are maneuvering to threaten with their military hardware including nuclear weapons the Korean people who are striving to build a prosperous country, the statement said.

The external relations department of the National Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon in a statement on March 22 branded the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises as an open challenge to the Korean people and a threat to world peace.

The Malta-Korea Friendship Association and the Maltese Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification in a joint statement dated March 20 condemned the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises as an adventurous war game threatening peace and security in Korea and the rest of the world and as a grave challenge to the entire Korean people who want to achieve the peaceful reunification of the country.

The statement strongly demanded the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets to put an immediate end to all the military actions which are aggravating the tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Cheney's National Press Club Remarks Condemned

SK0104093090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0900 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney cried that the disputes on the Korean peninsula "might expand into a war" when the "Team Spirit 90" joint manoeuvres were at its height. This openly revealed the criminal intention to convert the war game directly into a real war against our Republic.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a commentary today.

Recalling Cheney's recent words at the National Press Club that if there is a place on the globe where disputes might be expanded into a war at present, it is the Korean peninsula, the news analyst says:

We take a very serious view of this bellicose blast of the boss of the U.S. military. Because his appearance and war-thirsty blast are always followed by a military move.

The U.S. imperialists are these days clinging ever tighter to the method of invading another country by surprise while staging military exercises after massing armed forces. By this very method they invaded Panama in December last year and are now scheming to do the same against Cuba. Buoyant with arrogance, they might employ the same method against our Republic. This is highly probable, judging from Cheney's utterances.

The U.S. imperialists are warmaniacs who are covetously watching for a chance of aggression against our Republic. Their moves of war against the North have created a very dangerous situation on the Korean peninsula.

Those who are fond of fire are fated to be burnt in a flame. The U.S. imperialists must stop behaving rashly and give up their clamor for a war against the North.

U.S. Threatened With 'Sledge-Hammer' Retaliation

SK3103043190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 31 Mar 90

["Sledge Hammer Will Be Brought Down on U.S. Imperialists and South Korean Puppets"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—Rallies denouncing the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises are being held every day in all parts of the country.

Working people of the Namhung Chongnyon chemical complex, the Nangrim forestry station, the Yongsong meat processing factory and the Migok cooperative farm in Sariwon resolved to bring down a sledge hammer of hundred-fold, thousand-fold retaliation on the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u puppet clique who are getting overheated with the new war provocation moves.

The speakers at the rallies said that the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are resorting to all conceivable smear moves against the northern half of Korea by making much ado about the fictitious "threat from the North" and inventing the "fourth tunnel incident" in a bid to justify their military exercises and realise their aggressive ambition without fail.

Drawing attention to the fact that if a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, it will develop into a worldwide thermonuclear war, the speakers appealed to all the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas and the world's peaceloving people to lift up their voices of protest to check and frustrate their war game.

The speakers stressed that they would defend the socialist homeland as firm as a rock, getting themselves fully ready to cope with the new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

U.S. Said To Shift Arms to Asia From Europe

SK3103045390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 31 Mar 90

["Queer Arms Cut"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—The U.S. Administration schemes to transfer to its stooges and allies in advance a considerable number of planes, tanks and long-range artillery pieces which are expected to be scrapped as a result of the negotiations for the reduction of conventional weapons in Europe, on assumption that these negotiations will succeed, and the U.S. imperialists plan to deliver 120 "F-15" fighter planes to the South Korean puppets, according to a report of THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The United States' planned "arms cut" is a queer thing intended to move arms from one place to another, and it is not an arms cut but a hide-and-seek over weaponry, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The news analyst further says:

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the U.S. imperialists intend to turn South Korea where more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons have already been deployed and which has nearly 50,000 U.S. troops and huge puppet armed forces into a more dangerous hotbed of war by shifting their Europe-based destruction weapons to South Korea under the signboard of "military cuts."

Their arms buildup in South Korea testifies to the fact that the sharp edge of their global strategy and malicious anti-socialist offensive is being directed against the Korean peninsula and that the U.S. trigger-happy elements are doing their utmost to unleash a nuclear war here at any cost.

The tension on the Korean peninsula is becoming extremely acute due to their war moves.

U.S.-Japanese Military Ties Come Under Fire

SK3003105890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today lays bare the ever strengthened U.S.-Japan military tieup.

The U.S. imperialists seek to execute their Asia-Pacific strategy by actively taking advantage of the importance of Japan's military strategic position and of Japan's military and economic potentials, and the Japanese reactionaries scheme to gratify their wild ambition for aggression overseas with the backing of the United States. Hence, they are strengthening their military tieup, says the article.

It goes on:

Noteworthy in the U.S.-Japan military tieup of late is that they are intensifying cooperation in the modernization of means of war.

Some time ago the Mitsubishi Heavy Industry Co. of Japan and General Dynamics of the United States agreed to start the development of Japan's new fighter planes called "FSX," and the Japanese defense agency has already signed a contract with the United States to introduce "Aegis," the latest-type missile system, into the naval ships.

The U.S. Defense Department recently announced that it would transfer 1,300 "Sparrow" missiles to Japan.

The U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries are hastening joint researches into technologies for increasing the rate of hits and precision of missiles and are even making exchange for researches into germ weapons.

The Japanese reactionaries went so far as to zealously join in the U.S. imperialists' "Star Wars" program. Already last year they disbursed 1.1 billion dollars for the program, and the U.S. imperialists have been building a space observatory post in Japan from last year.

The U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries are not only putting spurs on the completion of a "U.S.-Japan joint operational plan" to cope with "contingencies" but also further rounding off a unified command system to carry it into practice.

Also noteworthy in the ill-boding moves of the United States and Japan to strengthen their military tieup of late is that U.S.-Japan joint military exercises are taking place not infrequently.

While the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises are comprehensive exercises aimed at mounting an all-out nuclear attack on our Republic from the ground, the sea and the sky, the U.S.-Japan joint military exercises which are taking place frequently in different places of Japan from mid-January are part of them.

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the U.S. imperialists have sent their liaison officers to the headquarters of the "Self-Defence Forces" at the time of U.S.-Japan joint military exercises. This tells, in fact, that a "combined command" with U.S. Army officers as its "commanders" has already been set up and it is on the move in actuality.

The U.S. imperialists intend to bring together the U.S. forces present in Japan and the Japanese "SDF" to form "combined forces" and hurl them onto the Korean front in case of "emergency" on orders from the "unified command."

The strengthened military tieup between the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries is increasing the tensions and the danger of war on the Korean peninsula and in the Far East, stresses the article.

Friendship Delegation Leaves for USSR 31 Mar

SK3103151290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Kangwon Provincial Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society led by Chairman Yi Chong-il, vice-chairman of the Kangwon Provincial Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, left here today to visit the Soviet Union.

Syrian Official Supports DPRK Struggle

SK0204054290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0525 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 2 (KCNA)—Syria fully supports the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) in the struggle for national reunification and will invariably maintain the principled stand of recognizing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea only.

Mahmud al-Zu'bi, member of the national and regional leadership of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and prime minister, said this when he met the WPK delegation led by Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-president, on March 28.

Referring to the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties, he expressed the hope that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would further develop on the basis of the intimacy forged between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Kim Il-song.

South Korea

Plans for Formal Ties With USSR Confirmed

SK0204030490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0259 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the Soviet Union have agreed to open full diplomatic ties this year, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) announced on Monday.

The agreement was reached during DLP co-leader Kim Yong-sam's visit to Mosow on March 20-27, DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae said in the first formal confirmation of reports that the two countries had agreed to set up full ties within this year.

"Our delegation and the Soviet side agreed to establish diplomatic relations this year to bring peace to the Korean peninsula and promote bilateral relations," said Pak, who accompanied Kim on his trip to Moscow.

He said the two sides had deep discussions on Soviet-North Korea relations, including ways to guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula, but refused to make public details of the talks.

The goverment announced last week that it will send a team to Moscow headed by First State Minister for Political Affairs Pak Chol-on to negotiate diplomatic ties. An informed goverment source said concrete work on setting up full ties is expected to begin in July, after the Congress of the People's Deputies of the Soviet Union goes into recess.

President No Tae-u and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev have exchanged views on promoting bilateral relations through a personal message from No and the Soviet leader's informal verbal and written replies.

The exchange was made during Kim's visit to the Soviet Union, during which he met with Gorbachev and other leaders, including politburo member Aleksandr Yakovlev, Gorbachev's top foreign policy adviser.

Government To Invite Gorbachev To Visit

SK0204060090 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 2 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 1 April that the government has concluded that an atmosphere for establishing diplomatic relations this year between Korea and the Soviet Union was provided on the occasion of a visit to the Soviet Union by Kim Yong-sam, a corepresentative of the Democratic Liberal Party, and his entourage. The government is making plans for Gorbachev, the president of the Soviet Union, to visit Korea after his visit to Japan in April, 1991.

It was also learned that the government is also making plans for President No Tae-u to visit the Soviet Union to hold summit talks with President Gorbachev, right after the establishment of diplomatic relations, to commemorate the event between the two countries.

The plans for summit talks between President No and President Gorbachev were revealed on 1 April by a high-ranking ruling-party official who was a member of the delegation to the Soviet Union, led by Corepresentative Kim.

This source revealed, "It was learned that, while holding discussions with high-ranking Soviet officials on pending issues, such as establishing diplomatic relations between Korea and the Soviet Union during the visit, both sides affirmatively examined the possibility of exchanging visits between the heads of states of the two countries." He also explained, "The summit talks will become a decisive opportunity to appropriately accommodate our side's position of making plans to strengthen relations with the Soviet Union in the political and diplomatic fields, and the Soviet's position of hoping that our private enterprises will extend their businesses into the Soviet Union actively."

In relation to this, a high-ranking government official revealed, "A planning delegation to hold negotiations with the Soviet Union on establishing diplomatic relations will visit the Soviet Union in May and discuss the issue of mutual visits by the heads of states of the two countries." He also revealed, "The planning delegation that will hold negotiations on establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, which consists of working-level personnel from the concerned departments within the government, will make decisions on definite plans for establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries as soon as possible."

Seoul Expresses Regret Over Soviet Actions

SK0104002690 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 1 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 31 March that at working-level consultations with Soviet officials during its visit to Moscow, a delegation led by Kim Yong-sam, leader of the Democratic Liberal Party, and First Minister of State Pak Chol-on, had expressed regret over the Soviet Union's downing of a Korean Air jetliner in 1983 and its support of North Korea's southward aggression in the 25 June war.

For the first time, officials on our side officially expressed regret over these issues. It was not learned how the Soviet side reacted to this.

A high-ranking member of this delegation also said, "It is not desirable for the past unfortunate incidents involving Korea and the Soviet Union to emerge as a decisive hurdle to establishing formal diplomatic ties between the two countries." The delegate added, "We broadly took up the regrettable matters of the past, including the downing of the Korean airliner, based on the judgment that the two countries must review historic truths and must reach a consensus of views on them before establishing diplomatic ties."

This concerned official went on to say, "The atmosphere at home at present is overly heated vis-a-vis the degree of change in the Soviet Union's attitude," adding that "if we expect too much, this will only lead the Soviet Union to strengthen its stand and to present rigid conditions, thus making it difficult to negotiate the establishment of formal diplomatic ties."

In connection with this, he added, "The government takes the stand that we will not unilaterally make concessions if the Soviet Union presents too rigid conditions for establishing diplomatic ties." He also said, "If a timetable is set for establishing formal diplomatic relations, then, we would consider an interim stage in which permanent missions would open and in which agreements on guaranteeing investment and preventing double taxation would be signed."

Kim Yong-sam Interviewed on Moscow Visit

SK0204044690 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 1 Apr 90 p 2

[Interview with Kim Yong-sam, co-leader of the Democratic Liberal Party, at his residence in Sangdo-tong, Seoul, by reporter Hong Chun-ho on 31 March]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hong Chun-ho] You gave a report on the result of your visit to the Soviet Union to President No Tae-u on 30 March. Is there much in your report that has not been disclosed in the press?

[Kim Yong-sam] Much. For seven days, I met people who lead the Soviet Union. Therefore, my trip is not something that I can elaborate on in a few hours. Also, people with whom I am acquainted are gradually becoming powerful.... However, it has been decided that what I said to President No would never be disclosed. The Soviet side does not want the details of our discussions to be disclosed, either....

[Hong] On the day when you arrived, you said that threats of war can disappear on the Korean peninsula....

[Kim] All the people are most concerned about reunification. How desirable it would be if North and South Korea hold a dialogue and do what East and West Germany are doing at present. The Soviet Union can exercise the greatest influence on this process. This is because it has continuously given military and economic assistance to North Korea. This is an important point. We knew that the Soviet Union could not help but be conscious of North Korea and try to reconcile it. On the contrary, the Soviet Union is not such a simple country.

[Hong] Attention has continuously focused on what you discussed with the Soviet side for the sake of removing the horror of war from the Korean peninsula and achieving stability there....

[Kim] I explained this issue only to President No. I will not talk about it, and it is good not to talk about it.

[Hong] There are speculative stories on the simultaneous admission into the United Nations by North and South Korea and the signing of a nonaggression agreement.

[Kim] They are all nothing but speculative stories. There are other important issues, too. However, I must keep my promise.

[Hong] It is also rumored that North Korea's capability for nuclear development was discussed....

[Kim] I said that I will not talk about this. The Soviet Union will do what it must do vis-a-vis North Korea. The establishment of diplomatic relations between us and the Soviet Union is an issue that is directly linked to North Korea.

[Hong] Can we establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union? And, if so, when?

[Kim] In the not too distant future. It is all right to say that we will do so in the immediate future.

[Hong] How was the attitude of the Soviet side?

[Kim] Our relations with the Soviet Union must not be viewed simply from a diplomatic perspective. I delivered a speech at Moscow University and was also introduced to 50,000 spectators at a soccer stadium. I attended a prayer service at a church that tens of thousands of people visit each day. I attended a luncheon with the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church. You must not consider these episodes as simple. The Soviet side said that because it has continuously said to the people that "Korea is a cat's paw of the U.S. imperialists" and that "North Korea is our friend," it is necessary for it to tell them that this is not the case. It said that, for this reason, it is important in improving Korea's image for me to appear in front of the Soviet public and for the Soviet media to report on it. This is unusual diplomacy. I heard that Son Song-pil, the North Korean ambassador to the Soviet Union, has still not been able to present his credentials to Gorbachev.

[Hong] Did you have contacts with Ambassador Son?

[Kim] No. I did not try, and people in his embassy continuously checked my schedule.

[Hong] Do you know why the Soviet side chose you as its partner?

[Kim] No, I do not know why.

[Hong] What caused the rumors of discord between you and Minister Pak Chol-on?

[Kim] Even though our delegation was composed of many people, there was no discord among them. Minister Pak gave me reports on all the issues, and the Soviet side explained everything to me. Therefore, there was no discord. Otherwise, how were we able to bring about success? I think that the press went too far. [passage omitted]

[Hong] I will ask you another question on the Soviet Union. Will the Soviet Union pressure North Korea to open up in an effort to achieve stability on the Korean peninsula?

[Kim] I will not comment.

[Hong] Did you not discuss this matter in detail?

[Kim] I think that the Soviet Union will take positive action. I will not talk about it in detail. It is important to bring about results. The only thing I can say is that we agreed that peace on the Korean peninsula is directly linked to peace in Northeast Asia and the world in general.

[Hong's note] While saying so, he interpreted his meeting with Gorbachev as shock therapy for North Korea by the Soviet Union, which wants North Korea to change.

Pak Chol-on Urges 'Cool' Approach to Moscow

SK3103114090 Seoul YONHAP in English 1049 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (YONHAP)—A key architect of South Korea's "northern policy" called for a "cool and prudent" approach to Seoul-Moscow relations Saturday amid the speculation that the two countries will establish formal diplomatic ties within this year. Pak Chol-on, state minister for political affairs, said "there is no guarantee or prospect whatsoever at present for the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations by the end of this year."

Pak, a key aide to President No Tae-u, said "the exchange of letters between Presidents No and Mikhail Gorbachev is an epoch-making and historic development but it is not an agreement on the diplomatic ties but only to confirm each other's willingness to set up diplomatic ties."

"It would serve national interest if we approach the Seoul-Moscow relations in a more cool and prudent manner rather than push for it politically," Pak told reporters while explaining about the recent Moscow visit.

He added, "The hastier we will become, the more the Soviet-side will demand."

Pak was among the official entourage of Kim Yong-sam, co-leader of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, who visited the Soviet Union March 20-28.

Kim, who met Gorbachev during the Moscow trip, was optimistic about an early establishment of diplomatic relations but Pak appraised their visit to Moscow and the prospect of bilateral relations in a different tone.

News media in Seoul have given prominent coverage to the lack of coordination between Kim and Pak during and after the Moscow visit.

Further on Pak's Comments

SK0104004590 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] State Minister for Political Affairs Pak Chol-on has tried to tone down the high expectation for an early establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and warned that Korea's hasty attitude would lead the Soviets to raise demands in return for relations.

His remarks are in sharp contrast to boastful indications by the chief of his mission, Kim Yong-sam, of the establishment of links in the "near" future.

In a press conference yesterday, he said there are no positive signs that the two countries would enter into formal ties within this year and foresaw that it would take "considerable" time.

"Our visit to Moscow this time has borne many fruits. The exchange of intentions between the two state leaders is epoch-making, historic. They have confirmed the other's will to have diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"We could not sound out (Soviets') detailed conditions on the establishment of links so far. What do you think they require of us (in return for the diplomatic ties)? It may be something that will inflict a great burden on us. We don't have to make haste. They then may ask for more," he said.

He described as "excessively optimistic" speculation that Moscow may be capitalist South Korea's diplomatic partner by the end of this year, apparently playing down an arrival statement by Kim, his party co-leader and political rival.

Rep. Pak denied Kim Yong-sam's announcement in Moscow that the two sides reached an accord on the upgrading of consular departments to the level of consulates general at the Soviets' request.

"Our government's position is that the two countries enter into ambassadorial relations without any intermediate steps. If the Soviet Union guarantees the opening of consulates general as a prelude to the establishment of embassies, it would be considered positively. But they did not make such a guarantee at all," he said.

He also indicated that Moscow has called for financial assistance, saying he insisted on the establishment of diplomatic links prior to pledges for economic cooperation.

Minister Pak, who traveled to Moscow in August 1988 shortly before the Seoul Olympic Games, revealed that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reply to President No Tae-u's personal letter was signed by his "behind-the-scenes dialogue partner." The reply was addressed to Pak, asking him to deliver Gorbachev's answer to No.

"Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would like to render the following message to Korean President No Tae-u through Minister Pak Chol-on," he said in the heading in the written reply.

Pak, an architect of Seoul's top diplomatic policy of appeasement with socialist countries as No's key confidant, disclosed that Korea and China are now in a "tug-of-war" on terms for the establishment of their formal ties.

Kim Chong-pil Cautions Against 'Hasty Moves'

SK0104013090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Apr 90 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "Wishful Thinking"]

[Text] Kim Chong-pil again cautioned against hasty moves in mending fences with the Soviet Union Friday shortly after his meeting with President No Tae-u and Kim Yong-sam at Chongwadae.

"I feel no reluctance in acknowledging tremendous diplomatic feats wrapped up by Kim Yong-sam during his recent visit to Moscow," said Kim, co-leader of the ruling party.

Kim, however, pointed out that the important thing to remember when dealing with such an all important diplomatic issue is the speed with which the thing is carried out.

When commenting on Kim Yong-sam's earlier remarks that there would be little possibility of war on the Korean Peninsula owing to improved Seoul-Moscow ties, Kim Chong-pil simply said: "That may be wishful thinking by Kim Yong-sam."

As long as Kim Il-song remains in power in north Korea, there is little possibility of a change in north Korea's belligerant attitude toward the south, Kim added.

ROK-Soviet Industrialists' Conference Reviewed

SK0204010090 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 28 Mar 90 P 9

[Article by reporter Yu Yong-hwan on the second round of the joint meeting of ROK and Soviet industrialists; all Russian names as published]

[Text] The second round of the joint meeting of ROK and Soviet industrialists was concluded on 27 March with the release of a joint statement. We can say that the second round of the joint meeting has provided an epochal opportunity in qualitatively improving and developing economic relations between the two countries. The greatest significance of the second round of the joint meeting this time is that the joint meeting discussed in detail and agreed on ways for economic cooperation unlike in the first round of the meeting in which both sides discussed introductory issues. In the second round of the joint meeting an agreement was also reached on the establishment of bank branches in the two countries, the establishment of direct communication lines between them, and the formation of a ROK and Soviet business consortium. Thus, the foundation for direct trade between the two countries has been arranged and, accordingly, the economic relations between them have entered a new stage.

Prior to this, the Korea Electric Power Corporation has signed a contract with the Soviet Union to import 40 tons of enriched uranium every year during the next 10 years. Together with the U.S. Bechtel Company, Lucky-Goldstar has landed a contract for a Leningrad development project valued at $1 billion with a Soviet company, Izorskiy-Zhabod Company. In view of such moves between the business circles of the two countries, we can foresee that economic cooperation will be further accelerated and expanded between the two countries with the second round of the joint meeting as an occasion.

In particular, when the second round of the ROK-Soviet joint meeting was being held in Seoul, Kim Yong-sam, a co-leader of the Democratic Liberal Party, had talks in succession in Moscow with high-ranking Soviet leaders, including Soviet President Gorbachev, and observers released hasty reports such as an agreement on the opening of consulate generals between the two countries in the first half of this year and the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations between them this year.

Such economic cooperation which has been agreed upon even under the situation—in which the two countries have not established official diplomatic relations—will play a great role as a bridgehead of our economic cooperation with East European countries which are seething with the tide of reforms and openness.

The second round of the joint meeting, which was held eight months after the first round of the meeting in July last year produced good results which cannot be comparable with the results of the first round of the meeting. We think that this was because of the Soviet side's active attitude toward the meeting. In his opening address, Golanov, deputy chairman of ther Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who led the Soviet delegation to the meeting, called for the ROK side to maintain more active economic cooperation with the Soviet Union, saying, "We do not want the ROK side to maintain its economic cooperation with the Soviet Union to the point where it merely exports consumer goods to us and imports raw materials from us."

Business companies of the United States and Western European countries which have advanced into the Soviet Union are engaged largely in the service industry sector and, consequently, the Soviet Union has gained little benefit for its economic reforms. Such being the situation, in its economic cooperation with the ROK the Soviet Union is seeking economic cooperation in the manufacturing industry sector.

Threfore, what the Soviet side emphasized most in the joint meeting was technological cooperation between the two countries. The Soviet Union has the highest level of technology in the world in the frontier industry sector, including medical science, space science, and basic materials industries. However, it has been known that the Soviet Union has encountered difficulties in utilizing the technology of such an advanced frontier industry in manufacturing and producing commodities. Therefore, what is a most urgent problem for the Soviet Union today is to graft its science and technology with our production technology.

The Soviet side's offer to exchange techonology cannot but arouse our interest as we have encountered difficulties in our export front due to our backward technology. Because of the accord in understanding between the two countries, many contracts for joint investments were signed in the second round of the joint meeting. In addition to the benefit of introducing technology from the Soviet side, there are many other benefits on our side. In other words, we cannot only receive the supply of gas, petroleum, coal, wood, and other raw materials from the Soviet Union on a continuous basis by taking part in the development of Siberia, but also expand our export markets in the Soviet Union.

This time, in the second round of the joint meeting, the foundation for overall economic cooperation between the two countries has been provided and, at the same time, some 40 ROK enterprises contacted Soviet business men and concluded contracts with them for joint investments in the Soviet Union.

Hyundai has already concluded contracts with the Soviet side for the projects of development of Subetullaya forests, development of Pelutijansuku coal mine, and construction of a soap plant in Nakhodka. In addition, Hyundai has also agreed with the Soviet side to export sporting goods, kitchen utensils, and clothing to the Soviet Union and to import from the Soviet Union material for synthetic rubber and aluminum. Samsung, in addition to the project of development of Siberia for which a contract has already been concluded, is now negotiating with the Soviet side not only for the building of refrigerator and VTR manufacturing plants under joint investments with Soviet partners, but also for the introduction of the Soviet Union's medicine manufacturing technology.

Daewoo is now in negotiations with the Soviet side for the export of ships and automobiles to the Soviet Union and for the building a watch manufacturing plant under a joint investment with the Soviet side. Lucky-Goldstar has received an offer from the Soviet side to build a soap plant and a wood-processing plant in the Soviet Union. In particular, Yongu Chemical Company, a medium enterprise, is now under negotiations with the Soviet side for a joint venture in the textile chemical industry field and for the introduction from the Soviet Union of technology on the precision chemical industry sector.

It seems that the economic cooperation between the two countries will be in full swing with the second round of the joint meeting this time as an occasion. Their economic cooperation will bear more concrete fruition after a Soviet trade fair which will be held in Seoul this May and a seminar for scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries which will be scheduled in the second half of this year in Seoul. However, their economic cooperation will not be as smooth in the future as we expect. Agreements of the guarantee for investiment and the prevention of double taxation, which are a key requirement for economic cooperation, have not been concluded as yet between the two countries. Consequently, the prospects for investments in the Soviet Union are not certain. The lack of convertibility of rubles, the Soviet currency, and the shortage of foreign exchange holdings in the Soviet Union are also problems in pushing ahead with economic cooperation between the two countries.

Another problem is that while the Soviet side wants concrete and gradual contacts in economic cooperation, our side shows an attitude of haste for a "agreement first."

Hyundai Founder To Make Third USSR Visit

SK3103064990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0642 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Business Group, is expected to make his third trip to the Soviet Union for talks on economic cooperation between South Korea and the Soviet Union April 6-17, an industry source said Saturday.

Chong will meet with Soviet entrepreneurs to continue talks on South Korean firms' participation in projects including natural gas and petrochemical complexes in Siberia, the source said.

Chong will also discuss concrete ways to promote bilateral economic cooperation through private-level channels in order to create the conditions for establishment of diplomatic ties between Seoul and Moscow, according to the source.

Soviet Exchange Shortages To Affect Business

SK0104001890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Apr 90 p 9

[Text] Soviet foreign exchange shortages will seriously affect Korean business concerns which are endeavoring to expand exports of their products to the Soviet Union.

According to the branch office of the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation [Kotra] in Moscow, the Soviet Union is delaying payment for its merchandise imports or is not paying at all because of its acute foreign exchange shortages. The office said that the Soviet Union has defaulted the payment of $100 million to $500 million by due dates since October last year.

In particular, the Soviet Union is delaying the payment of costs for imports of consumer products or says it is impossible to pay, the office said. The delay in payment for imports of merchandise is attributed to the Soviet policy of giving top priority to the allotment of foreign exchange to imports of facilities since last year in order to boost its exports.

The office said that a Soviet company was unable to pay for $2 million worth of soap and toothpaste imported from the United Kingdom. It added that the Soviet company involved is trading with a number of Korean business concerns.

Citing that trade between Korea and the Soviet Union is rapidly increasing, the office called upon Kotra to take steps to get rid of risks in exports to the Soviet Union.

KAL Inaugurates Regular Service to Moscow

SK0104011290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Apr 90 p 3

[Excerpts] The South Korean flag carrier Korean Air [KAL] inaugurated once-a-week regular passenger service between Seoul and Moscow last night. A KAL Boeing 747 jetliner carrying 410 passengers and crew members took off from Kimpo International Airport at 8:40 p.m. yesterday for the historical flight to the Soviet Union with which Korea has no full diplomatic ties yet. [passage omitted]

The trans-Siberian route was established under a commercial agreement signed by KAL and the Soviet national airline Aeroflot in February. Under the accord, Aeroflot also launched the once-a-week regular passenger service between Moscow and Seoul via Shanghai Friday.

The Soviet airline plans to open one more Far Eastern route linking Khabarovsk, Seoul and Singapore on April 21. Since March 25, KAL has been rerouting its nine European-bound flights on the route instead of making a stopover at Anchorage, and of them,one flight is scheduled to make a technical landing at Moscow Airport every Wednesday.

ROK, USSR Academics Schedule June Meeting

SK0204070890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0700 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—A round-table conference of South Korean and Soviet academics is to be held in Moscow in June to discuss cooperation, it was announced on Monday.

The meeting, which is co-sponsored by the Korean Institute of International Studies (KIIS) and the Soviet Institute for World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Soviet Union, will run June 4-10 and cover promotion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, science, technology, culture and sports, a KIIS official said.

The 19-member Korean delegation will include KIIS head Prof. Choe Chong-ki, Rep. Cho Sun-sung and two other lawmakers, and Hyundai Construction Co. Chairman Yi Myong-pak, the spokeswoman said.

Prof. Choe concluded an agreement on academic cooperation between KIIS and IMEMO in Moscow last September to hold the conference annually in Seoul and Moscow by turn, she added.

Koreans on Sakhalin Form Association

SK2803073090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] A "Koreans Association" was created on the Soviet island of Sakhalin, the state-run Moscow Radio reported Sunday.

There are about 35,000 Koreans on the island.

The radio broadcast, according to NAEWOE PRESS, well versed in affairs in Communist countries including North Korea, said that the social organization of Koreans was born thanks to perestroyka of the Soviet Union.

Soviet Magazine Warns North To Change Policy

SK0204034890 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 2 Apr 90 p 1

[By correspondent Kang Chon-sok from Tokyo]

[Text] The Soviet press urged North Korea to reform itself, warning that North Korea will follow the collapsing course that befell Ceausescu of Romania if it does not do anything about the economic crisis it faces now.

On 1 April, the Japanese daily YOMIURI SHIMBUN, quoting the latest issue of the Soviet weekly newsmagazine, ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, printed a strong warning against North Korea from the Soviet Union, something unheard of in the Soviet press.

In a feature article headlined "North Korea—Legend and Reality," ARGUMENTY I FAKTY described North Korea as "Kim Il-song's Private Museum," saying that "virtually everywhere in North Korea there are portraits and gold and silver statues of Kim Il-song. The people there are reminded that they are leading the happiest life in the world thanks to their leader's benevolence. However, the reality is a far cry from this."

The article went on: "In North Korea, such basic materials as food, clothes, and medicines are in absolute scarcity, and the people are jaded with distrust, uneasiness, and tiredness."

Noting that "the economic accomplishments made public by North Korea are not true but fictitious," the article attributed "the causes of North Korea's economic crisis to a chronic shortage of energy resources; inefficiency in its economic management system; and military spending that accounts for more than 30 percent of the state budget."

ARGUMENTY I FAKTY also reported that, in terms of insolvent foreign debts, North Korea owes an estimated 2.2 billion rubles to the Soviet Union alone as of November 1989, and a total of $3 billion to $4 billion to other foreign countries.

North Students in USSR Defect to South

SK0204051390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0451 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Two North Koreans studying in the Soviet Union have defected to South Korea via a European country, the Foreign Ministry announced Monday.

Nam Myong-chol and Pak Chol-chin, both 25, were granted political asylum at a South Korean Embassy in Europe and will arrive in Seoul on Monday afternoon, a ministry spokesman said. The government decided to accept the students, majoring in computer engineering at Leningrad University, after confirming their intentions together with the unspecified host nation, the spokesman said.

The North Koreans will meet reporters on arrival at Kimpo International Airport at 4:55 P.M. to explain what motivated them to defect to South Korea and the circumstances of their defection, he said. Nam and Pak mark the fourth defection to South Korea by North Koreans studying in Eastern Europe since February 1989, when Cho Song-kwon and Kim On-chol fled from Czechoslovakia, and are the first from the Soviet Union.

DPRK Reportedly Agrees to IAEA Inspection

SK0104015790 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0100 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Quoting European sources, Japan's NIHON KEIZAI SIMBUN reported today that North Korea has made preparations to receive an inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] into atomic facilities under construction there and that it will invite an inspection team to inspect facilities before the end of this year, at the earliest [as heard].

It was learned that during its unofficial contacts with IAEA officials this year, North Korea expressed its intention to agree to an inspection into its atomic facilities and that it will receive an inspection some time in the first half of this year, at the earliest, or in the fall, at the latest.

Amid an international concern that North Korea has used its nuclear facilities for military purposes rather than peaceful purposes, our country, the United States, the Soviet Union, and other countries pressured North Korea to agree to an inspection.

DPRK Reportedly Building Border Trade Center

SK3103025490 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 31 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] According to a report in the 30 March edition of WEN WEI PO, a pro-Chinese daily published in Hong Kong, North Korea has already designated Hapsando, which sits along the Tuman River and borders China and the Soviet Union, as a special economic zone, and is now pushing ahead with its plan to develop it as a "trade center." Hapsando, therefore, is now being developed as a border trade center, along with Hunchun in China and Khasan in the Soviet Union. The WEN WEI PO added that Hapsando is expected to become a "golden triangle."

This newspaper also said that North Korea, China, and the Soviet Union each are attempting not only to develop these border cities as trade windows by maximizing their geographical advantages and ultimately as border trade centers of the three countries, but also turn them into a golden triangle of trade in Asia by luring capital and technology from Japan and the ROK with a view toward turning them into a Hong Kong-style trade center.

China has already set out to develop Hunchun as a window for trade with the Soviet Union and North Korea after the Chinese State Council had declared it a window for trade with these countries in 1988, according to this Hong Kong paper. Likewise, North Korea has designated Hapsando as a special economic zone and is now laying railroad lines and building an expressway linking the city to China and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union, too, has decided to grant Khasan, a city 230 km from Hunchun and 60 km from Hapsando, various privileges such as tax breaks and the right to use natural resources, with a view toward developing the city into a Soviet version of Hong Kong, while building an airport, railroads, and international communications lines to make foreign investment easier.

Japan Apologizes for Mistakes at Winter Games

SK2803082290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Mar 90 p 12

[Text] Tokyo (AP)—The head of the Japan Olympic Committee [JOC] visited the South Korean Embassy in Tokyo Tuesday to apologize for a series of blunders made by Japan during the second Asian Winter Games in Sapporo earlier this month.

JOC President Yoshiaki Tsutsumi told South Korean Ambassador Yi Won-kyong that "a series of mistakes occurred simply because of our errors. There was no particular intention or political motive behind it at all," JOC spokesman Wahei Tsuchiya said.

In one blunder, the Mongolian national anthem and then the North Korean anthem were played at a medal presentation ceremony for South Korean speed skater Kim So-hui, who won the 1,500-meter short track race on the opening day of the Asian Winter Games on March 9. On the following day, two South Korean skaters including Kim were introduced as North Koreans before the 1,000-meter race.

Editorial Warns of Japan's 'Military Buildup'

SK2803113590 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 Mar 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Japan's Armaments and President No's Visit to Japan"]

[Text] It has been reported that Japan will pour 23 trillion yen into carrying out the next five-year Defense Forces Adjustment Plan, beginning in 1991. Japan has spent a total of approximately 50 trillion yen over the past 40 years since it began to rebuild its armed forces after the war. This means it spent an average of 1.25 trillion yen a year. As a result, Japan ranks sixth in the world in military expenditures after the United States and the Soviet Union, the two superpowers; France; West Germany; and Great Britain. This means that Japan has become one of the six powers.

Not satisfied with this, Japan is planning to spend an average of 4.6 trillion yen (an equivalent of approximately $30 billion at the current exchange rates) a year for 5 years, beginning next year. This means that Japan can become one of the four military powers in the world, after surpassing West Germany and Great Britain.

Strictly speaking, whether Japan will become one of the six or four powers has nothing to do with us. However, we cannot help but pay attention to Japan's continued military buildup, not only in view of past history but also in view of the present situation.

This is because we cannot trust what the Japanese people, and in particular Japan's ruling circles, have said and done. Two facts lead us not to trust them. One is the Japanese people's interpretation of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution. Article 9 of the Constitution pledges the "renunciation of war as a means of resolving international disputes" and "the non-possession of Armed Forces." However, the Japanese people say that this article does "not reject the use of armed forces in self-defense." They also speak as if the Self-Defense Forces were not armed forces. This is false rhetoric and pretense that is typical of the Japanese people.

The other is that the concept of "being mainly devoted to defense" has disappeared. Japan has not used this word for a long time. Instead, while stressing "the Soviet Union's threats," the Japanese people say: "In order to resolutely deter political pressures and blackmailings by other countries' Armed Forces, it is necessary for us to possess and maintain our Armed Forces and to establish a security system." They also openly say, "Spheres for exercising the right of self-defense are not limited to Japanese territorial lands, seas, or airspace."

Also, the U.S.-Japanese Security Treaty stipulates that the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force can use Japanese facilities and bases if this "contributes to international peace and security in the Far East." This shows that Japan's military buildup has something to do with Korea. Reduction or weakening of the U.S. Forces in Korea will surely invite Japan to play a military role in place of the United States. The planned Korean-Japanese exchange of information and military cadets can be said to be the beginning of this process.

Why do we have to worry about this?

A report said that a plan on a visit to Japan by the president had been concluded. In order not to be despised by other countries but to receive a cordial reception from them, Korea, as a sovereign nation, must consistently adhere to principles, rather than diplomatic protocols. We know that former President Chon Tu-hwan did the opposite. In dealing with Japan, we must express our views on Japan's excessive military buildup, and must maintain our unchanging position on the legal status of the third generation of Korean residents in Japan, a problem that was caused by the Japanese Empire's colonial rule, and that has not been solved since the end of the war. Why must president after president go to Japan, even though Japan has not made any sincere efforts to solve these pending issues? This is our question.

UN Forms Group To Discuss ROK's Admittance

SK3103013190 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] New York (AFP)—A U.N. group has just been formed to study the steps to a possible admission of south Korea to the international body, diplomatic sources said Thursday.

The group, made up of representatives from Canada, France, Britain, Japan and a member of south Korea's observer mission here, met for the first time in New York Wednesday. The meeting came after Seoul expressed the wish to garner the benefits of the ongoing diplomatic breakthrough in Eastern Europe, one source said.

Under U.N. rules, the General Assembly acts on a proposal from the 15-member Security Council on admission of country to the United Nations. Of the 15 members on the Security Council, five are permanent members: Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Diplomatic sources said China and the Soviet Union, both supporters of north Korea, would likely veto a proposal to bring south Korea into the United Nations if the vote were raised now. But the sources said Moscow might change its position, noting that there had been indications that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would favor normalizing relations with south Korean Liberal Democratic leader Kim Yong-sam.

South Korea has had observer status at the United Nations since Sept. 21, 1950 when the United Nations agreed to admit simultaneously both south and north Korea as one member.

Seoul To Submit Tariff Cuts at GATT Meeting

SK3103012390 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Mar 90 p 6

[Text] The nation is to submit a proposal to reduce its import duties from an average of 16.6 percent to 14.9 percent by 1992 to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in early April, the Finance Ministry said yesterday.

If the proposal is accepted by GATT's negotiating group on tariffs, 71 percent of imports will be subject to

GATT's international cooperation customs regulations in 1992 on a value basis, up from 19.1 percent in 1986, the base year set in the Uruguay Round.

The 3,452 affected imports, such as socks and men's clothes, will see an average tariff reduction of 35 percent from 1986, while another 3,501 items, such as primary products for petrochemicals, will be subject to the current rate. In addition 1,797 items such as salt will be excluded from the list of imports under GATT's international cooperation customs.

Korea has been pushing down customs duties since 1984, aiming at an average of 7.9 percent in 1993. The Customs Deliberation Committee has decided to impose an emergency duty of 50 percent on canned pork, however, because a surge in imports is hurting domestic stockbreeders.

U.S. Decision on Base Closings Criticized

SK0104023390 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 30 Mar 90 p 6

[Editorial: "The Loss of Sovereignty as a Result of the 'Closings of U.S. Air Force Bases'—The Government Veiled U.S. Unilateral Notice on the Closings of the Bases as 'Something that Has Been Agreed Upon'"]

[Text] It is not known exactly what kind of attitude the South Korean Government's delegation to the ROK-U.S. defense ministers' talks adopted toward U.S. pressure on Korea to increase its share of the upkeep of U.S. troops stationed in Korea. The people only remember the vehemence with which the government has been stressing that Korea and the United States are on a horizontal, not vertical, footing, when it comes to their bilateral relations.

However, there was a report that the decision on the "closings of three U.S. Air Force bases in Korea and a cut in the military personnel by 2,000," announced simultaneously in Seoul and Washington on 29 January, was, in fact, a unilateral decision by the United States without prior consultation with the Korean Government, as reported by HANGYORE SINMUN on 29 March. This proves that the assertions about Korea and the United States standing on equal footing are just the opposite.

What is more, the government, even after receiving the unilateral decision as such from the United States, suggested that Korea and the United States announce it simultaneously. In this way, the government has deceived the people by pretending that it had been agreed upon between the two countries in advance. There is no question that this is an act of abandoning the nation's sovereign rights.

Although it was unavoidable for Korea to be under U.S. military administration for a while following our country's liberation from Japan, the United States had kept Korea under its domination politically, economically, and militarily ever since a single government was established in the South in 1948, and throughout the Korean war. The operational control over the Korean Army exercised even today by the U.S. military and the unfair Status of Forces Agreement indicate that U.S. domination over Korea is still in effect.

The history of the past half century proves that it is not out of such a pure objective as deterring war on the Korean peninsula or providing Korea with its security that the United States has kept its troops stationed in Korea. Even those who think that the presence of U.S. troops in Korea has "contributed," to a certain degree, to peace on the Korean peninsula find it hard to deny that the stationing of U.S. troops here has helped perpetuate the division, quite an adverse effect. The successive regimes in Korea—the only country in the world that has entrusted the operational control of its armed forces to the military of another country—have been engrossed only in defending the vested interest of the United States in the Far East, instead of taking the initiatiave to pursue national reunification.

The Korean Government has never asked for a quid pro quo, which it deserves in return for having offered its land to the U.S. troops. Because the subordinate relations have continued for so long, anti-U.S. sentiment has been rising.

The U.S. troops stationed in Korea will have to be withdrawn someday, and so they should. In the process, however, Korea's sovereign rights should not be ignored. Our government can become a truly independent one only when it can ask, with dignity, that foreign troops leave the country, and when it can exercise its right to be officially informed of their withdrawal.

Chong Ho-yong Leaves for One-Year Stay in U.S.

SK0204015890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0149 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Chong Ho-yong, the independent candidate driven out of Tuesday's by-election in Taegu by unrelenting pressure from his former comrades in the ruling party, left Seoul with his wife Sunday on a plane bound for the United States.

The retired general, who had been in a military hospital since dropping his election bid March 26, will reportedly stay abroad for one year.

His airport departure slip listed the purpose of his exit as "travel" and his destination as San Francisco, California, via Los Angeles.

Before boarding the plane, Chong told reporters that if he had the chance he would like to study in a place like the Hoover Institute at Stanford University.

Asked what he had to tell President No Tae-u, Chong said he had nothing to tell No and did not feel like seeing him. He said that the overseas trip was for himself and not the result of any proposal.

Kang Hui-sang, a former secretary to Chong, said Chong will visit a relative in America for a rest and the trip will take a month.

Chong, a close personal friend of No's since they were in the same class at high school and later as fellow generals, resigned his National Assembly seat last December under opposition pressure for his alleged role in brutally quelling the Kwangju pro-democracy protests in 1980 and pulled out of the competition to regain his seat after meeting No March 24.

Court Upholds Two National Security Law Clauses

SK0204084890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0759 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)—Two controversial clauses of South Korea's National Security Law were declared to be "qualifiedly constitutional if rightly applied" in a ruling by the Constitution Court on Monday that also said they should not be arbitrarily used in infringing people's basic rights.

The court said the provisions—one that comprehensively prohibits acts praising, encouraging or sympathizing with anti-state organizations, and another that bans production or distribution of publications regarded as beneficial to the enemy—could be considered constitutional only when applied in cases where there was a substantial threat to national security, the existence of the state or the basic order of democracy.

The two clauses would be unconstitutional, however, if they were applied to simple acts of encouragement, praise or sympathy, which are not seen as endangering the existence and security of the state and basic order of democracy, the ruling said.

The verdict also said the wording of the clauses is too loose and the scope too broadly defined, allowing them to be misused or abused to supress anti-government groups and infringe upon freedom of expression in ways irrelevant to national security.

"The provisions may be used as a means of checking government critics if the government arbitrarily defines their criticism as something that North Korea could use in its propaganda offensive against our government. So the indiscriminate application of these clauses should be unconstitutional," the court ruling said.

"It is certain that there are some unconstitutional elements in the clauses, but if they are declared totally unconstitutional and null it could bring a great national disadvantage in view of our reality, which is characterized by a strong military confrontation with North Korea," the court said.

"We recommend that the clauses be limited in application to cases where there is explicit harm to national security, existence or the basic order of free democracy," the ruling said.

"For example, praising academic accomplishments, artistic performances or works by North Koreans should not be punished under the clauses because these acts are hardly seen as harming national security and the basic order of free democracy," it said.

The verdict, seen as putting a brake on the "omnipotence" of the National Security Law, was an admission that the two clauses might have been politically misused by Korean rulers to suppress anti-government activities or groups, analysts said.

The ruling, regarded as a compromise between national security concerns and human rights, also made it plain that the two clauses will not be abolished given the confrontation with communist North Korea, the analysts said.

Eight of the Constitution Court's adjudicators upheld the clauses while one adjudicator dissented.

The National Security Law virtually bans contact or communication with, or visits to, North Korea by South Korean citizens as well as praising, sympathizing or encouraging North Koreans or their system.

Opposition and dissident groups are demanding abolition or overhaul of the law.

The ruling, though not legally binding because of the limited constitutionality of the provisions, will be a strong precedent for future court decisions, the analysts said.

Speaker Refuses To Deliver Questionnaire

SK0104013190 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Kim Chae-sun yesterday refused to deliver a written questionnaire from the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] to President No Tae-u, returning it to the party.

The questionnaire, signed by 70 PPD lawmakers, concerns, among other things, the controversial withdrawal of Chong Ho-yong from a parliamentary by-election.

Kim based his refusal on Article 14 of the Constitution and Articles 114 and 115 of the National Assembly Law which limit the receivers of a questionnaire from parliament to the cabinet members, including the prime minister.

PPD Launches Petition Drive Against DLP

SK3103064890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0556 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 31 (YONHAP)—The opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) launched a nationwide petition drive Saturday aimed at drumming up public resentment against the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP).

A headquarters was set up to administer the campaign to collect 10 million signatures on a petition calling for general elections, implementation of local autonomy and resolution of public welfare problems.

The PPD will have outdoor rallies in Puchon, west of Seoul, on Sunday and in Taejon on April 13, and let regional party chapters hold indoor rallies on their own as part of a publicity drive against the DLP formed by the merger of two opposition parties with the ruling party earlier this year.

Speaking at a ceremony to launch the petition drive, party President Kim Tae-chung said: "The 10 million-signature campaign will achieve its goal because the people's ability has grown stronger. The ruling party will be unable to evade a call for a general election at the end of the year. The incumbent ruling camp will have to step down voluntarily if it fails to solve the public welfare problems by the coming fall."

The PPD was left alone in the cold when the then-ruling Democratic Justice Party merged with two opposition parties, the Reunification Democratic Party and the New Democratic Republican Party, in a surprising decision to form a majority party last month.

* MTI's 1990 Plans for Industrial Expansion

902C0115A Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 19 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] The Ministry of Trade and Industry [MTI] has made this the year to overcome the immediate economic hardships and lay the groundwork to join the ranks of advanced countries, and has decided to step up its efforts to readjust the industrial structure. To this end, it plans to stress the following items: restoration of exports and activation of investments; settlement of industrial peace and stabilization of wages; promotion and expansion of solid, balanced trade; establishment of the basis for nurturing the high-technology industry; and correction of industrial imbalance.

The following is the functional breakdown of the plans.

Restoration of Competitiveness in Export Market

The ministry will strengthen the cooperative system of the export-related organizations, including the government, export organizations and industries, and it will examine monthly export trends by item and will promptly take appropriate measures. By strengthening the activities of the export task force, it will break the bottleneck of the industries while continuing to promote simplification of export procedures.

This year, it has decided to provide funds in the amount of 750 billion won for exports on a deferred-payment term, and will support development of new markets by creating an export insurance corporation and by expanding the export insurance fund.

Activation of Investments in Manufacturing Facilities

It will allow an early depletion of the special facilities-fund of 1 trillion won, and will increase the amount of special foreign currency loans to $7 billion. It also plans to improve conditions for receiving support, so that technology imports could qualify for such support.

In order to promote import of equipment and materials for high-tech industries, it will issue overseas securities, such as overseas convertible bonds. Also, in the areas of export industries and high-tech industries, it will relax credit restrictions for a limited period of time and will alleviate various regulations that obstruct facility investments and manufacturing activities.

In addition, it will expand the area available for industrial sites through a quick zoning for planned industrial complexes while providing tax benefits, such as extension of the period for the special investment tax credit policy.

Early Settlement of Industrial Peace

In order to improve cooperation between labor and management, it will provide labor-management education to 24,000 workers and overseas training to 6,000 workers.

It will encourage all manufacturing firms with 100 or more employees to establish offices exclusively for labor issues and labor-management counseling. In addition, it will take pan-industrial measures, such as adhering to the no-labor-no-wage principle.

Stabilization of Wages on the Basis of Productivity

It will select model firms—mostly large ones—of each industry and will manage them on a priority basis. It also plans to establish and promote wage stabilization policies that are appropriate for each industry.

It will promote industry-specific joint negotiation of wages for automobile, steel and synthetic fiber industries. For the automobile parts industry, it plans to minimize the ripple effect of labor-management disputes by standardizing the negotiations period.

Laying the Groundwork To Join the Ranks of Advanced Countries in Trade

It will promote diversification of exports, such as development of high-tech products, and will upgrade the existing promising export products to a world-class level.

In response to the trend of internationalization and open-door policy, it plans to revise completely the [present] export-import system and create a corporation specializing in computerization of trade activities in order to realize paperless trade procedures.

In order to expand exchange of goods between South and North Korea, it will lay the groundwork for the formation of a South-North Korean economic cooperation system by broadening the categories of primary industry goods for import, by creating a South-North Korean economic cooperation fund, and by promoting trade agreements.

Reinforcement of Positive Activities of Trade Diplomacy

It will actively participate in the negotiation of the Uruguay round, which is scheduled to close at the end of 1990, and plans to make the most of the new international conditions for trade, such as the economic unification of the EC countries, the movement of economic cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region, and the opening of the northern region.

It will promote trade policies that are suitable for each trade region and will take appropriate measures, such as correcting the trade imbalance, to maintain peaceful trade relations with the United States.

It will establish an appropriate system to deal with EC integration which is to take place in 1992, and will take positive measures to improve the adverse balance of trade with Japan.

It has decided to increase the foreign economic cooperation fund to accelerate joint investments and the exports of industrial facilities to developing countries. It has also decided to actively promote investments and industrial cooperation in the northern region.

Establishment of Highly Value-Added Industrial Structure

Aimed at the advancement of high-tech industries, it plans to enact an extraordinary law and create a fund of 1 trillion won for technological advancement of the high-tech industries.

It will take necessary steps to establish high-tech industrial parks in key areas and will establish comprehensive policies to nurture industries which demand highly intelligent workers.

It will create a steering committee for industrial structure, which will establish basic plans to heighten the industrial structure in the 1990's, while promoting conversion of the traditional industries to highly value-added types. While providing 30 billion won for transformation of the not-so competitive industries, it will promote formation of an overseas industrial complex in Southeast Asia and other overseas areas where Koreans reside, such as China.

Support for Development of Manufacturing Technology

Aimed at an early development of industrial technologies that can match the advanced countries; it will divide technologies into key leading-edge technology, production element technology, and manufacturing technology for new promising products for export.

It will support firms' technology development by activating the skills of manufacturing technology researchers, and will expand the establishment of industrial technology research institutes under universities. It will also establish plans to supply manpower needed in the long and short run for the changing industrial structure.

Promotion of Productivity Improvement

It will help create an atmosphere for productivity improvement by holding 12 conventions per year to accelerate doubling productivity, and by relating this improved productivity to increased workers' earnings, it plans to inspire workers to work harder.

This year, it will provide an automation facilities investment fund of 100 billion won, and will select and support model factories for automation. It plans to establish an information network for industries, technologies and trade. Making the most of the Korea Institute of Economics and Technology (KIET), it plans to establish local information centers in each province, thereby improving the information system for the regional, and medium and small businesses.

It will convert the Korea Package Design Center to a professional design research institution, and by 1994, it will unearth and support 1,000 firms taking the leadership in productivity improvement.

Nurturing Medium and Small Business

It will conduct a survey of medium and small businesses' demand for technology, and will provide a structural adjustment fund of 52 billion won for the medium and small businesses' technology development. It will identify 500 medium and small businesses that can possibly develop a world-class technology, and then it will provide them with a concentrated support in technology. It will accelerate the project of technological fusion, which is intended to develop a new technology through mutual exchange of technologies between different kinds of businesses.

It will provide a fund of 340 billion won for stabilization of medium and small business management and for structural improvement. It will also induce the large firms to turn over the medium and small businesses.

Through the expansion of unsecured loans for new ventures, it plans to actively help creative entrepreneurs start technology-intensive businesses. It will also provide 1 trillion won for the small businesses to increase their economic role.

Promoting the Geographic Balance of Industries

In accordance with the basic plan for the arrangement of industrial sites, it will develop regional industrial parks of 20 million pyong by the year 2000 and will promote geographic decentralization of the industries.

It will establish detailed plans to implement basic plans for the geographically balanced growth, and will examine possible enactment of special laws. It will support movement of the factories in the national capital region to rural areas as well as establishment of pollution-control facilities.

It will reestablish the roles of the central and regional offices, and will develop plans for medium-and long-term development of industries that are suitable for each geographic area. It will give preferential treatments—such as various funds, tax benefits, technical education and training—to local industries and newly established firms. Also, it will actively nurture the geographically specialized industries.

Appointees to Positions in Ministries, Banks

SK2903045090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0314 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 29 (YONHAP)—The government Thursday named Kim Tae-su, director of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Ministry's Office of Planning and Management, to be the ministry's first assistant minister.

The government also appointed Kim Po-kun, chief of the Construction Ministry's New Town Planning Office, to be assistant construction minister for administrative affairs, and Han Su-un, director of the Office of Planning and Management, to be assistant construction minister for technology effective Wednesday.

Yi Su-hu, first assistant finance minister, was nominated to be commissioner of Korea Customs Administration.

The government also picked Pak Chong-sok, superintendent of the Office of Bank Supervision and Examination, as governnor of the Securities Supervisory Board and as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Yi Yong-man, governor of the Korea Exchange Bank, became the superintendent of the Office of Bank Supervision and Examination and Hong Chae-hyong, commissioner of Korea Customs Administration, was transferred to head the Export-Import Bank of Korea.

Meanwhile, Whang Chang-ki, president of the Korea Export-Import Bank, was elected president of the the Korea Exchange Bank in a share-holders' meeting Thursday.

Correction on U.S. F-16 Squadron Plans

SK3003230890

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "U.S. Reportedly To Cancel F-16 Squadron Plans" published in the 30 March East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 28:

Column one, paragraph two, only sentence make read: ...said last Feb. 30 [as published] that the U.S.... (supplying dropped editorial notation)

Burma

Khun Sa 'Welcomed' U.S. Pressure as 'Challenge'

BK0104023290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0210 GMT 1 Apr 90

[By Michael Adler]

[Text] Mae Ai, Thailand, April 1 (AFP)—Heroin kingpin Khun Sa has called the United States' bluff from the jungles of northeast Burma, a top aide said, after Washington ruled out military action to back a drug indictment. "They were bluffing us" and had to "take back the bluff" Khernsai Jaiyane claimed this weekend on the Thai-Burmese border near the Thai town of Mae Ai, 700 kilometers (420 miles) north of Bangkok. A New York court indicted Khun Sa on 10 drug trafficking counts in December, triggering speculation that U.S. forces might try to seize him, much as they seized Panamanian strongman General Manuel Noriega. But U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Melvin Levitsky said this week in Bangkok that the United States was not planning military action against Khun Sa, who controls most of the heroin flow out of Burma.

Considered one of the world's largest drug traffickers, Khun Sa is the main force in the "golden triangle" where the borders of Burma, Laos and Thailand converge, the source of half the heroin consumed in the United States. Though the United States never threatened to use force against Khun Sa, Mr. Levitsky said Monday that Washington was launching a new anti-heroin campaign after its successes against illegal cocaine flow. Those successes include the invasion of Panama during which Gen. Noriega was captured and sent to the United States to face drug charges, he said. But Mr. Levitsky said the situation of Khun Sa, whom he described as a diehard drug dealer, was different. Not only would military action involve invading a sovereign country, but even if Burma wanted to cooperate, Khun Sa "is in his area of control and is protected."

Mr. Khernsai said Khun Sa was a legitimate ethnic freedom fighter not a criminal and added that his boss "welcomed" U.S. pressure "as a challenge." "He says challenges are made to be overcome. Without challenges your success is not sweet," Mr. Khernsai said. But while he taunts the distant United States, Khun Sa is facing his greatest-ever military threat at home from ethnic Wa fighters who are seeking to break his control of the lucrative smuggling along the border with Thailand.

Despite a recent pause, fighting is sure to continue in an escalating war for the world's largest opium growing region, said Mr. Khernsai, chief liaison officer for Khun Sa's 4,000-8,000 strong ethnic Shan Mong Thai Army (MTA). He said MTA troops had repulsed at least eight attacks on Doi Lang, in Burma just across the border from Mae Ai, in the past seven weeks. "They have been attacking us since February 14. Their slogan was to capture Doi Lang in three days," Mr. Khernsai said. Thai military sources confirmed the attacks and the present lull. They said Khun Sa's forces have the advantage of holding high ground in the rolling jungle hills of the region but that it still was not clear who would win.

The Wa, one of some 12 ethnic minorities in Burma, formerly formed the bulk of the Burmese Communist Party (BCP). The Wa and Kokang groups rebelled and toppled last year the ethnic Chinese BCP leadership, destroying the party which had fought against Rangoon since Burma achieved independence in 1948 from Britain. The BCP and MTA were the main groups controlling the growing of opium, its refining into heroin and smuggling out of Burma. The Wa are believed to have struck a truce with Rangoon in November. They have since then mounted their fiercest-ever attacks against Khun Sa, who controls smuggling along 280 kms (175 miles) of the Thai border between Mae Sai, the northernmost city in Thailand, to Mae Hong Son.

Mr. Khernsai charged that the Burmese Army was providing the Wa with funds as well as "facilities allowing them to go in and out freely in Burmese areas." In their last attack on Wednesday, "they left behind 26 corpses and 30 assorted weapons," he said. Mr. Khernsai said 3,000 troops were committed on each side in the fighting around Doi Lang, while the Wa were now bringing in an additional 1,000 reinforcements. His troop strength figures confirmed those given by sources close to the Wa. The sources said the Wa have an army of some 17,000 drawn from a population of about a million and a half. Khun Sa heads one of several Shan groups in a population of five million.

3 Wounded, Property Damaged in Insurgent Attack

BK0104071290 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0630 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Insurgents have been hampering and disrupting regional peace and tranquillity. With the intention of killing and maiming innocent people, they have been using small arms and launchers to barbarously attack rural and urban areas where people peacefully reside.

Consequently, at 2055 on 28 March, about 50 Karen National Union insurgents made a sneak attack on the eastern part of Yebyu town on the western bank of Tavoy river. About 10 men headed by Sub-lieutenant U Shein Win of the Yebyu Town Police Station returned fire. At about 2210, the insurgents retreated toward the east. The insurgent attack wounded one police deputy warrant officer and two innocent young children. A cooperatives shop, four automobiles belonging to government departments, and one privately owned car were burned and destroyed by the insurgents. A small Defense Services column and people's militiamen on the western bank of Yebyu are pursuing the enemy.

Energy Minister Leaves for Visit to Vietnam

BK3103151890 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] At the invitation of the minister of energy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, a Myanmar [Burmese] delegation headed by Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin, minister for energy and mines, left Yangon [Rangoon] by air this evening. The Myanmar delegation was seen off at the airport by General Than Shwe, vice chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; Lieutenant General Tin Tun, minister for transport and communications and for labor and social welfare; Lt. Gen. Phone Myint, minister for home and religious affairs and for information and culture; Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council; Maj. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2; Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, commander of Yangon military command; Brigadier General Abel, minister for planning and finance and for trade; senior military officers; Mr. Nguyen Hao, Vietnamese ambassador; and departmental officials from the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Mines, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The minister of energy was accompanied by U Tin Tun, director general of the Energy Planning Department, Ministry of Energy; U Khin Maung Thein, managing director of the Myanmar electric power enterprise; U Myint Thein, managing director of No. 3 mining enterprise, Ministry of Mines; and the minister's personnel affairs officer, Lieutenant Thaung Kyaing.

Malaysian Armed Forces Chief, Party Depart

BK2503112490 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] General Tan Sri Hashim bin Mohamed Ali, chief of the Armed Forces of Malaysia, in the company of Brigadier General Than U, judge advocate general; Mr. Sallehudin bin Abdullah, Malaysian ambassador to Myanmar [Burma]; and the Malaysian military attache to Myanmar, visited the Air Force Maintenance Base at 0800 today and were welcomed by the base commander, Brig. Gen. (Maung Khet) and his officers. The base commander briefed the guests about the work and the organizational structure of the air base at the conference hall of the base. Later, the guests were taken around the maintenance base.

At 0900, the visiting general and his delegation arrived at the Yangon [Rangoon] airport and were welcomed by Gen. Than Shwe, deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services and commander in chief of the Army; Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin, commander in chief of Navy; Lieutenant General Tin Tun, commander in chief of Air Force; Lieutenant General Sein Aung, commander of No. 1 Special Operations Group; Lt. Gen. Chit Swe, commander of No. 2 Special Operations Group; Major General Khin Nyunt, director of the Defense Services Intelligence; Maj. Gen. Tin U, chief of staff of Army; Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon Military Command; and other high-ranking military officials. Later, Gen. Than Shwe and the visiting general inspected the guard of honor. The visiting general and his party left Yangon airport by a special plane at 0915.

Restrictions Imposed on Electioneering by Mail

BK2903144290 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] The Commission for Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] has issued Order No. 389 on 29 March 1990—the fourth day of the waxing moon of Hnaung Tagu, 1351 Myanmar era. The order reads:

Subject: Distribution of Mail to Canvass for Votes.

1. Some People's Assembly candidates will be canvassing for votes by mailing to voters their serial number on the ballot to facilitate voters in casting their votes at the polling booths when the multiparty democratic general elections are held on 27 May 1990.
2. In order to ensure that the provisions of the People's Assembly Elections Law and By-Laws are not contravened when sending mail to voters, the mail sent shall contain no other contents or marks with the exception of the following:

A. Name of Voter
B. Serial Number [of Candidate] on Ballot
C. Polling Booth Number
3. The printing of these types of mail shall be done in accordance with the stipulations of existing laws and regulations.

By the authority vested in me.
[Signed] Aye Maung, secretary
Commission for Multiparty Democratic General Elections

Cambodia

UN Technical Team Leaves for Phnom Penh 29 Mar

BK3003014190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] A team of United Nations experts left for Phnom Penh yesterday to look into transport and telecommunications needs in preparation for an eventual UN role in Cambodia as part of a settlement to the conflict there, well-placed sources said. The team will be on a strictly technical, non-political mission under the aegis of the Office of UN Secretary-General Xavier Perez de Cuellar, the sources stressed. "There are no political implications. It is purely a matter of technicalities, of what is required should the UN play a role in Cambodia," they said. The experts will look into the existing infrastructure and assess needs for repairs and improvements if or when the UN moves into Cambodia during the transitional period. They will travel around the country "as far as authorities will permit" to look at telecommunications, roads, railways, airports and ports, the sources said.

The four warring Cambodian factions have agreed to the principle of a UN role during the transitional period leading up to general elections, but remain at odds on details. The five permanent members of the UN Security Council, during a meeting in Paris earlier this month, proposed the UN organise general elections, participate in civil administration and ensure peacekeeping. The UN team is led by Winston Pratley, formerly based in Bangkok as regional representative for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The team will work with a coordination commission led by Phnom Penh's Assistant Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong, the Phnom Penh news agency SPK said in a report monitored by AFP. The experts, believed to number three or four, are on the first UN mission to Cambodia since Australia proposed UN involvement in the interim administration of Cambodia pending internationally-supervised general elections. Australia estimated that 12,190 UN personnel would be required if the world body became involved in civil administration, electoral processes and military functions during the interim period.

Commentary Blames Sihanouk for Continued War

BK3103045690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "Sihanouk Should Bear Responsibility for the Prolongation of the Civil War in Cambodia"—date not given]

[Text] At a recent news conference in Beijing, Sihanouk moaned about Vietnam's so-called imposed colonialism in Cambodia and about Vietnam's leaving behind Vietnamese troops and settlers in the country.

Sihanouk's outdated maneuver is carried out at a time when the process to find a political solution to the Cambodian problem to end the conflict and the prolongation of the civil war in Cambodia is moving in a favorable direction and is receiving support and assistance from international opinion. Sihanouk's talk about Vietnam's colonialism and Vietnam's leaving troops and settlers in Cambodia is groundless deception and slander. In fact, this is a maneuver to cover up his own crime of siding with Pol Pot and opposing the Cambodian people. As Sihanouk has often admitted, he cannot detach himself from the Khmer Rouge. Furthermore, this is the most convenient excuse for Sihanouk to use to evade criticism from the national and foreign public to continue his alliance with the Pol Pot group, fuel the civil war in Cambodia, and prolong the suffering, separation, and disaster of the Cambodian people, particularly those living along the Cambodian-Thai border. In fact Sihanouk has openly said that the way he has chosen is to continue fighting against the Cambodian people. Sihanouk has been shedding crocodile tears and expressing pity and sympathy for the people, sayi he wants them to live in peace, but supports the murderous, genocidal Pol Pot regime.

With a desire to end the war, and not to wage war in order to end war, the State of Cambodia has been implementing a flexible policy and made many concessions. These efforts include implementing policies and carrying out many concrete and realistic activities, such as the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops outside the framework of a political solution in September 1989, amending the constitution, and changing the name of the country and the national flag. More recently, as part of the solution to the Cambodian problem Cambodia has accepted a UN role in supervising the implementation of agreements and organizing elections in Cambodia, if the United Nations leave Cambodia's UN seat vacant.

These goodwilled and constructive positions of the State of Cambodia have received unprecedented, wide support from international public opinion and have produced talks among opposing Cambodian parties and successive meetings in Jakarta and Paris. Our people love and want peace, but this peace should ensure and safeguard the vital interests and survival of the Cambodian people and guarantee against the recurrence of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. Our people express anger with Sihanouk who continues to collude with and maintain alliance with Pol Pot to oppose the people. We categorically oppose the demand that we offer our people's lives in exchange for the genocidal Pol Pot regime. We demand that Sihanouk absolutely bear responsibility for the prolongation of the civil war in Cambodia.

VONADK Cites Sihanouk Briefing in Pyongyang

BK3103041090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] On 24 March, Cambodian President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk received and briefed a number of diplomats accredited to Pyongyang, Korea, on the situation of Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia. The samdech firmly denounced the Hanoi Vietnamese who have been expanding and moving borders to annex Cambodian territory along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border and bringing increasing numbers of Vietnamese colonists, millions of them, to settle illegally in Cambodia. The samdech affirmed to diplomats from friendly countries that the Hanoi Vietnamese still continue the war of aggression in Cambodia and are constantly dispatching fresh Vietnamese troops from Vietnam to battlefields in Cambodia. The Soviet Union also continues to provide weapons and all kinds of war materiel to Vietnam and the puppets in Phnom Penh. On a solution to the Cambodian problem, the samdech said the five-point peace plan he has proposed is the most appropriate and correct formula to solve the Cambodian problem comprehensively and definitively. The samdech specified that a solution to the Cambodian problem should be based on a four-party principle.

Resistance Cooperation in 27 Mar Ambush Reported

BK0204021690 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] On 27 March, the Vietnamese enemies and their puppets sent 500 troops mobilized from Phnum Srok, Chup, and Trapeang Thmar to attempt to seize liberated villages in Phnum Srok District on north Sisophon battlefield. Upon their arrival at Samraong village, these troops were ambushed and routed by our national resistance forces in cooperation with the Sihanoukist National Army and Khmer People's National Liberation Armed Forces. We killed 15 enemy soldiers and wounded 18 others; destroyed a T-54 tank and some ammunition and war materiel; and seized two AK's, two B-40's, and a quantity of assorted ammunition and war materiel.

SRV Truck Reportedly Ambushed in Preah Vihear

BK0104011090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] On 26 March a Vietnamese truck fully loaded with Vietnamese troops left Kompong Thom on National Route 12 for Preah Vihear. Upon arriving at Rumchek village in Rumni commune, Rovieng District, Preah Vihear Province, our people, in cooperation with our Cambodian national resistance forces and compatriot Cambodian soldiers, ambushed and destroyed this truck on the spot. Our people killed 10 Vietnamese enemy soldiers, including a battalion officer, and wounded 18 others; destroyed nine weapons; and seized 10 weapons.

VOK Reports Vietnam Continues To Ship Troops

BK3103074090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] According to a report from the Office of the Personal Representative of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia and Asia, a Vietnamese soldier who surrendered to the Sihanoukist National Army has confessed that he was sent by the Hanoi authorities to Cambodia in November 1989. This is further evidence that Vietnam continues to hide its troops in Cambodia. The Vietnamese soldier, (Le Van Xuan), 18, from South Vietnam, has confirmed that his unit with 150 soldiers was sent by three military trucks to Battambang Province, Cambodia, on 15 November 1989. The Vietnamese soldier assumed that Vietnam is continuing to ship troops by planes and trucks to western and northern Cambodia. Three Vietnamese soldiers recently surrendered to Thai authorities and stated that they wanted to resettle in a third country.

VOK Reports 20,600 SRV Soldiers in Cambodia

BK0104064090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] According to intelligence sources, 20,600 hidden Vietnamese troops wearing the Heng Samrin army uniform are deployed in Cambodia, as follows:

—1,000 Vietnamese troops from Division F-59 on Route 10 between Battambang and Pailin.
—1,650 from Division F-7 in the Pailin region.
—2,500 from Division F-5 in Sereisaophoan District, Battambang Province.
—1,000 from Division F-330 in Battambang Province.
—1,100 from Division F-7701 in Kompong Thom Province.
—600 from Division F-9902 in Kompong Chhnang Province.
—3,000 from Division F-310 in Siem Reap Province.
—3,000 from Division F-4 in Koh Kong Province.
—750 from Division F-302 in Oddar-Meanchey Province.
—2,000 from Division F-8 in Kompong Cham Province.
—2,000 from Division F-315 in Stung Treng Province.
—2,000 from Division F-53 in Kratie Province.

The sources said that these Vietnamese troops are helping the Heng Samrin soldiers in fighting against the Cambodian resistance forces.

Laos

Deputy Foreign Minister on Thai Princess' Visit

BK3103134090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy foreign minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], recently granted an interview with PASASON on the official friendship visit to the LPDR from 15 to 22 March of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon of the Kingdom of Thailand at the invitation of Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR.

Asked in what fields Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon was interested during the eight-day visit, he said: During her visit to Vientiane capital, Luang Prabang, Champassak, Saravane, and Savannakhet Provinces, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon showed her interest in many areas, such as socioeconomic affairs, education, and public health development. In particular, she paid special attention to Lao culture and ancient shrines. During her visit to several historical sites, her royal highness demonstrated her knowledge of Lao history, culture, and customs. Lao academicians have learned many lessons from her royal highness and believe that she possesses wide knowledge in many fields, in particular arts and literature, music, and artifacts.

Asked how he appraised this important visit, he said: The Lao Government and people highly appraised the success of the visit to the LPDR of the princess, because this is the first visit to Laos of a member of the Thai royal family in the past several centuries. As one of the officials in charge of organizing the official reception for her royal highness, I believe this historic visit of her royal highness has greatly contributed to the strengthening of mutual understanding and trust and will further fortify the long-standing traditions of friendship and relations of brotherly neighborliness between the Lao and Thai peoples, which cannot be easily undermined by any force. Her royal highness stated during a banquet on the evening of 21 March that Lao-Thai relations and friendship are like the flow of clear water in a stream.

On the same occasion, His Excellency Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan, deputy foreign minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, who accompanied her royal highness during the visit to Laos, answered questions related to the visit. Asked about the impression of the entourage of her royal highness during the official friendship visit to the LPDR, he said: The princess' entourage was deeply impressed by the honorable reception accorded to her royal highness during this visit; the Lao Government and people provided the warmest hospitality for her royal highness wherever she visited, be it in the capital, big cities, or forested areas. Asked how the entourage assessed the result of this visit and its effect on Lao-Thai relations and cooperation, he said: Speaking on behalf of the entourage of her royal highness, the visit to Laos of her royal highness has opened a new chapter in the history of the relations between the two countries and peoples whose brotherly ties have existed since time immemorial, thus further increasing their mutual affection and ties through bloodline, cultures, customs, and faith.

'Arafat Sends Greetings to Kaysone Phomvihan

BK2903125390 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, March 29 (KPL)—Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], on March 21 received a message of greetings from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, chairman of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, commander-in-chief of the forces of the Palestine revolution.

The message stated "on behalf of our Palestinian people, members of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and on my own behalf it is my great pleasure to convey to your excellency, and through you, to the Lao party, leadership, and to the friendly Lao people, our best wishes and congratulations on the 35th anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

"The LPRP has led the Lao people to victory in the past struggle of liberation and independence and is now leading the people to progress and prosperity, in which initial achievement can be discerned thanks to your wise leadership.

"I avail myself of the opportunity, dear comrade, to express our deep gratitude to the stand and support of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, Government and people to the just struggle of our Palestinian people for our national rights and self-determination and for the establishment of the independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

"I assure you, dear comrade, that our bonds of friendship, cooperation and militant solidarity will continue for the benefit of common interest of our two peoples and for peace, security in the world."

Philippines

NPA Warns Japan; Threatens U.S. Personnel

OW0104111990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Manila, April 1 KYODO—A top-ranking communist guerrilla leader Sunday warned the Japanese Government against giving Official Development Assistance (ODA) to projects which aid the Philippine Government's counterinsurgency program. In a written interview with news agencies, New People's Army (NPA) Chief of Staff Romulo Kintanar also warned Japan against embarking on ODA projects which pollute the environment and deny farmers their land. "We are warning the government of Japan to stop these (ODA projects). We are also asking the people of Japan to reject and fight this bad practice of their government," Kintanar said, citing "information" which has reached the NPA High Command regarding the negative impact of Japanese ODA projects. He did not say what action the NPA would take should the alleged practice continue.

Last September, KYODO news service obtained internal documents of the Communist Party of the Philippines which said Japanese ODA projects were being used in the "suppression" of the 21-year communist insurgency in the Philippines. The documents analyzed Japanese aid to the Philippines and said its aid projects, like the U.S. military bases in the Philippines "will be properly dealt with by the people's democratic revolution." Kintanar's warning was the first issued publicly by a top-ranking Communist Party leader. The party documents said Japan and the U.S. "agreed to coordinate" their respective assistance programs into "strategic aid" for countries important to Western security and "threatened by communist insurgency." It said Japan "made the necessary adjustments" in its ODA plans, rationalized increases in its assistance, and promoted aid to countries in "unstable regions to prevent them from turning to communism."

As the world's biggest aid giver, Japan is becoming "a key determinant to the development of many Third World economies," the document said. As of 1988, Japan extended a total of 534.7 million dollars in Official Development Assistance to the Philippines. Kintanar also said the NPA would intensify attacks on

American military troops and all U.S. personnel involved in counterinsurgency operations, noting that U.S. intervention in the country has escalated. "Our main targets are invasion troops of the U.S. and all U.S. personnel who have anything to do with counterinsurgency," Kintanar said. The U.S. maintains two military bases and four auxiliary facilities in the Philippines. NPA hit men have killed at least six U.S. base personnel since 1987. In the interview, Kintanar also said the NPA would intensify its urban warfare but would be very selective in its targets. With the progress it has achieved, the NPA may attain complete or partial victory in its revolutionary struggle within a period of 10 years, he added.

Reportage on Upcoming Bases Talks With U.S.

Manglapus on Bases' Future

HK3103024490 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] In Agana, Guam, visiting Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said talks on the future of U.S. military bases here in Manila will focus on the United States' ability to honor its financial commitments to the Philippines. Exploratory talks will begin in April or May. Both countries will await the outcome of those talks before coming up with a decision on whether to enter negotiations.

Manglapus is in Guam as part of a tour of Micronesia.

Manglapus Hints at Talks' Delay

HK3003123990 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1100 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus today hinted that the exploratory talks scheduled this April may not push through. This in the absence of a strong indication from the American Government expressing their definite stand on the exact dates of the talks. This report from Tanny Rodriguez:

[Begin recording] Interviewed by newsmen in Malacanang, Manglapus said the U.S. Government refused to confirm the exact date of the talks despite the earlier expressions of his committee that they are willing to meet by mid-April.

Manglapus reiterated his earlier statement that his panel, which is supposed to meet its counterpart regarding the exploratory talks, has not met yet. He added that no moves yet nor recommendations were formulated by his committee, and therefore it is still premature to talk about serving a notice of termination of the American military installations by the Philippines to the U.S. Government. [end recording]

'No Plan' To Delay Talks

HK3003130590 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 30 Mar 90

[From "GMA News" program]

[Text] The government has no plan to postpone the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. bases exploratory talks. Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig, head of the presidential committee on the bases, issued this clarification. Presidential Spokesman Adolf Azcuna said there is no definite date for the talks, but they will be held in April.

Manglapus, Platt To Discuss Date

HK0204035190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1300 GMT 1 Apr 90

[From interview with President Corazon Aquino by host Roger Lagasca on "Ask the President" program—recorded, date and place not given]

[Text] [Lagasca] We are now entering the month of April and the exploratory talks between the United States and the Philippines on the U.S. military bases may be held on 18 or 19 April. However, U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt announced that the talks may be postponed. Is there any such report or has an agreement been reached between the United States and the Department of Foreign Affairs?

[Aquino] Secretary Raul Manglapus is presently visiting Micronesia and other countries. When he returns, I will ask him to meet with Ambassador Platt to decide the date for the start of the exploratory talks. Secretary Alran Bengzon has also mentioned to me that it would be better to start the exploratory talks in May. So, the minute Secretary Manglapus returns, I will ask him to see the ambassador and set a firm date on this matter. You are aware that Ambassador Platt went back to the United States to seek instruction on the dates of 18 or 19 April. Now that he is back and presumably with his instructions, we can start the exploratory talks.

[Lagasca] We also have to ascertain that the national interests of the Philippines will prevail.

[Aquino] Yes, that is always on our minds.

Meeting on Possible Bases Conversion Reported

HK0204042190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 2 Apr 90 p 2

[By staff member Julius Fortuna with report by DJ Santa Ana]

[Excerpt] Former Ambassador to Moscow Alejandro Melchor Jr. has been meeting with the American and Japanese political and business leaders on the possible conversion of the U.S. bases facilities in the Philippines into private commercial enterprises after 1991.

Well-placed sources at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Philippine embassy in Washington said that Melchor began his "secret" meetings last September, about two months after he left the government service. The sources would not say, however, if the meetings, which are still going on, have the backing of Malacanang or Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus. But Philippine ambassador to Washington Emmanuel Pelaez, who said he has learned of Melchor's initiative, commented that Melchor's proposals deserve "serious consideration".

Pelaez said he has learned from "unimpeachable sources" that Melchor has talked with U.S. defense and military officials "on the possible conversion and privatization of (the U.S.) bases and military purchase contracts in lieu of rentals." Among those Melchor has talked to, according to Pelaez, are Admiral William Crowe Jr., the former chairman of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staffs of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Pelaez said his sources indicated that among the items Melchor had already discussed with the Americans and the Japanese and which the Philippines government should consider are the following:

—Sale of buildings and structures in Camp John Hay to a Japanese/American banking consortium which would, in turn, convert it into an international debt retirement.

—Sale of buildings and structures at Clark Air Base to a consortium of Japanese and American banks which will convert it into an international airport with auxillary support and light manufacturing industries, with the proceeds of sale to retire debt.

—Military and civilian use of Subic Naval Base to be governed by a new treaty.

The DFA sources said that Melchor had already commenced discussions with "prominent American and Japanese industrial and political leaders late last year.

Melchor is in the United States with his wife Rosario. But his son, Michael, has been looking for ways to make use of the U.S. bases "so that we will not appear as beggars," and broaching his ideas to friends in Washington, most of whom are former classmates at the Annapolis Naval Academy.

The young Melchor confirmed that his father's proposals centered on using the U.S. bases to help develop Philippine industrialization by controlling supplies of services and goods in U.S. bases in the Asia-Pacific region.

Melchor was fined last year by Malacanang for insubordination, but his lawyers have complained to the Supreme Court that his dismissal violated procedures. Supreme Court sources said the decision is due to be released this week.

Manila is currently preparing for exploratory talks on the future of American bases in the Philippines. The lease agreement is due to expire on September 16, 1991.

The talks, meant to be informal and consultative may be held between April 18 or May 6, depending on the result of final consultation between Manglapus and U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt.

While the Philippine panel prepares for the talks, the Joint Legislative-Executive Bases Council has been finalizing a bases conversion plan in the event that the U.S. pull out of the Philippines. [passage omitted]

Committee Chairman Favors U.S. Bases Pullout

HK3003044390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 30 Mar 90 p 8

[Text] UP [University of the Philippines] President Jose V. Abueva [chairman of the Joint Executing-Legislative Bases Committee] yesterday said U.S. forces and facilities should not be allowed to stay after the termination of the military bases agreement in 1991.

In a statement to the CHRONICLE, Abueva clarified that his individual stand favors the outright removal of the bases "because their presence infringes on our national sovereignty and constrains the pursuit of an independent foreign policy and an independent and self-reliant national economy".

He stressed that the Government should not allow itself" to be involved in foreign military interventions that violate other nations' sovereignty and defies the constitutional principle renouncing war as an instrument of national policy."

The Government, he proposed, should coordinate with U.S. authorities "to facilitate the process of military withdrawal and the smooth transition to a new relationship marked by equity, justice, mutual repect and friendship". Filipinos and Americans should be "partners" in converting baselands to better alternative economic, social and security uses, Abueva said. For instance, he pointed out, the baselands could be converted into ship repair, docking facilities and seaport at Subic-Olongapo and converted into international airports and industrial estates at Clark.

Further on Chairman's Remarks

BK0104100290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0946 GMT 1 April 90

[Text] Manila, April 1 (AFP)—The Philippines should demand joint use of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines, an advisor to President Corazon Aquino has said.

"In other countries, the U.S. has allowed joint civilian use of its military bases," Jose Abueva, chairman of the Legislative-Executive Bases Council, said in an interview published here Sunday [1 April] by the MANILA CHRONICLE newspaper.

The council, which includes legislators and senior government officials, advises Mrs. Aquino on the disposition of Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and four other U.S. facilities in the country whose lease expires in September 1991.

Mrs. Aquino has refused to commit herself on the future of the facilities.

The two countries are scheduled to hold "exploratory talks" on the bases next month, during which Mrs. Aquino has said they will discuss whether a new treaty should be negotiated.

"Whatever happens—MBA (military bases agreement) extension or not—we would like to immedately come up with an agreement that will enable the Philippine Government joint civilian use of the facilities," Mr. Abueva said. He said that while the concept was an old one in Western Europe, it was not so in this country. A clause in the current leasing agreement which allows U.S. forces "unhampered" use of the Philippine bases was "not to our national interest," he said.

The bases council earlier said that among other plans, it wants to relocate elements of the Philippine Air Force and Navy at Clark and Subic, respectively, and transfer Manila Airport to Clark, while converting Subic into shipbuilding and ship-repair facility.

Mr. Abueva said that the council's work was crucial because "sooner or later the American forces and its facilities will be leaving. The world is changing very rapidly. There is a lot of pressure to convert and close down military bases."

Washington has said that while U.S. troop reductions in response to budgetary constraints were possible in Europe, due to developments in Eastern Europe, the same could not be said of the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Abueva said 80 per cent of those who earned their livelihood around Subic were "base-dependent," but areas around Clark were not so dependent on the U.S. facility. He said that in the event the lease were terminated in 1991, the "bar girls" working around these bases would have to seek work elsewhere. "Most of those in the entertainment industry are migrants anyway—they know where to go. But as the economy expands, some will probably remain," he said.

Official Says U.S. Told Government About Magleo

HK3103022290 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Representative Hernando Perez disclosed that the U.S. Embassy had informed Malacanang just before the December coup attempt that an American named Harold Magleo was trying to sell arms in the Philippines. Perez, LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] spokesman, quoted First Secretary (Nicholas Mohger) [title and name as heard] and Counsellor John Finney Jr. had warned Malacanang through Colonel Voltaire Gazmin as early as July 1989 about Magleo's activities. But Gazmin, chief of the presidential security group, denied having received any information on Magleo from the U.S. Embassy officials.

Magleo was implicated by Brigadier General Alejandro Galido in a sworn statement allegedly as having offered to supply arms to the December coup plotters.

U.S. Embassy Victoria Middleton said nobody by the name of Magleo ever worked in the embassy.

Meanwhile, President Aquino may make a formal request to the U.S. Government to establish the true identity of Magleo.

Aquino Orders Probe Into Expose of U.S. Colonel

HK3003095590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 30 Mar 90

[By Dick Sinchongco of Mobile Unit 6]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has ordered an intensive investigation into an expose by Senator Teofisto Guingona about the involvement of a U.S. Defence Intelligence Agency member in the December coup. Presidential Spokesman Adolf Azcuna said the Philippine Government is waiting for the U.S. Embassy's reply to Senator Guingona's demand that it shed light on the affairs of U.S. Colonel Harold Magleo.

Speaking to newsmen following a special cabinet meeting at Malacanang, Azcuna explained:

[Begin recording] [Azcuna in progress] *...the Senate on its own will probably start investigating and the president will also probably look into that particular evidence, the evidence that Senator Guingona has come up with.*

[reporter] How come it took a senator to look into the identity of Magleo? How come the executive or the military was not able to?

[Azcuna] This is one government. We cooperate if the Senate has any leads and the...that is part of the Philippine Government. The Senate is....[end recording]

Nevertheless, Azcuna admitted that the government is having a hard time gathering sufficient information on the American who reportedly offered to supply arms to the rebel soldiers. Magleo was implicated by former Southern Luzon Command chief Brigadier General Alejandro Galido after he infiltrated the Reform the Armed Forces Movement.

It will be recalled that the U.S. Embassy denied that Magleo was connected with the embassy but did not refute reports that he is a member of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency.

Talks With Vietnam on Expanded Ties Begin

HK3003044590 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 30 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Philippine and Vietnamese officials began consultations to discuss ways of expanding political and economic relations and enhancing regional security. Delegates from both countries said the two-day meeting in Manila, the first in a planned annual series, began with a discussion of their respective domestic situations, but gave no details. The Cambodian issue and problems concerning refugees are also on the agenda.

The meeting resulted from a visit by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus to Hanoi in November 1988, a turning point in once-hostile ties between Vietnam and the Philippines, which hosts two major U.S. military bases. A government statement said Manila hoped the talks would enhance "stability and peace in the region." Vietnamese representative Nguyen Tam Chien said yesterday's talks on domestic issues were "instructive, fruitful and open."

Cabinet Secretary Cites Tasks To Offset Coup

HK3103083490 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 31 Mar 90 p 25

[By Michael M. Alunan]

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Vicente Jayme has spelled out four main tasks for the government to offset the effects of the December 1 attempt and sustain the economic pace of the last four years. Speaking during the induction night of the officers of the 1990 Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines (EJAP) last Thursday, Jayme said the first main task is "to keep our budgetary deficit under control. For 1990, the deficit is now estimated to reach P17.5 billion compared to our program target of only P13.8 billion." The second task is to "keep inflation tamed. There are inflationary pressures arising from sources as diverse as the budgetary deficit, the recent drought and excess liquidity." Jayme emphasized that the task is "keep our export industries competitive. Inflation is one factor that could erode our competitiveness. But administrative bottlenecks, red tape and bureaucracy also discourage export initiatives."

"The fourth task is to improve our administration and program implementation capabilities. This is a broad task and covers many areas. It could involve enhancing the environment for investments by streamlining procedures and clarifying policy directions, or it could involve increasing project implementation capabilities in order to keep official development assistance flowing," Jayme said. To contain the budget deficit, Jayme said collection efficiency should be improved, privatization of big-ticket assets under the Asset Privatization Trust (APT) be hastened, BIR [Bureau of Internal Revenues] and Customs operations be simplified and new tax measures be passed by Congress like the proposed ceilings on business deductions and the hikes on forest charges. Restraint in government spending will have to be required through mandatory savings. Jayme said that government should adopt measures to reduce domestic interest rates, although in the short-run Central Bank has to siphon off excess liquidity by increasing T-bill flotations and rates as well as the reserve requirements.

As to ways to reduce domestic interest rates, Jayme said the gross receipts tax (GRT) should be abolished and that the Central Bank and Finance department study other ways to reduce intermediation costs. Government should also "shift the outstanding domestic public debt to medium and longer maturities, and develop an active market for medium and long-term securities," Jayme said. He also emphasized the need to maintain political stability. This can partly be achieved through better government services and through policies that would strengthen the economy, alleviate poverty and promote growth and equity.

Despite the effects of the coup, the potentials for maintaining favorable growth rates are still there with the the so-called "fundamentals" still existing and the economy steadily moving upwards over the last four years. "Volume of goods our economy produced grew by more than five percent in each of 1987, 1988, 1989. By 1989 the volume had exceeded the highest previously recorded level. With the vigorous growth in production levels, real incomes in turn grew faster, at more than nine percent in 1988 and nearly seven percent more in 1989. Higher incomes in turn translated into purchasing power, with real spending growing at more than eight percent in each of 1987, 1988 and 1989," Jayme said. He also cited the increases in GNP growth rates from 1.9 percent in 1986, 5.9 percent in 1987, 6.6 percent in 1988 and 5.6 percent in 1989, or an average of five percent over the last four years. Inflation was likewise kept at 0.8 percent in 1986, 3.8 percent in 1987, 8.8 percent in 1988 and 10.6 percent in 1989. "While our foreign debts remain a serious problem, it has become manageable," Jayme said adding that a 1989 World Bank study made on 17 heavily-indebted middle-income countries has placed the Philippines as the best performer in terms of high growth and low level of inflation.

Evidence Linking Imelda Marcos to Coup Lacking

HK3003125990 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1100 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon today disclosed that there is no strong evidence linking former First Lady Imelda Marcos to the failed December coup which merits a filing of legal charges against her. This report from Tanny Rodriguez:

[Begin recording] In an interview, Drilon said Mrs. Marcos was not directly mentioned in the affidavit of retired General Alejandro Galido which had implicated several businessmen, opposition leader Homobono Adaza, and an alleged U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency Colonel Harold Magleo to the failed coup d'etat. Drilon said there are enough evidences against these businessmen, lawyer Adaza, and Magleo. However, his department will still examine the counter affidavits to be filed by them on April 2 as the basis whether appropriate charges such as rebellion or harbouring criminals may be filed against the respondents. The justice secretary emphasized that General Galido's sworn statement is very authentic and that Galido himself will testify in court on April 2. [end recording]

Rebels Vow To Continue 1896 Revolution

HK3003094790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 30 Mar 90

[By Vic Pambuan]

[Text] The Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People [RAM-SFP] will not launch any more coup d'etats, but instead it will carry on with the Philippine Revolution of 1896. This was contained in a statement sent by the RAM to defense reporters this afternoon. According to the RAM statement, the organization will carry on with the unfinished Philippine Revolution of 1896 in order to liberate the Filipino people from exploitation of the ruling elites. It also seeks to overthrow the illegal president, eliminate corrupt traditional politicians, and realize genuine democracy for all Filipinos. The statement says RAM will continue its struggle until the country realizes genuine democracy, which will be different from what they call the hypocritical democracy of President Aquino's government.

At the same time, RAM criticizes the government for turning its back on the promises made at EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] in 1986. Even though the president proclaimed reconciliation and justice for all, she has turned vindictive by consistently violating due process for decent people. The statement also said that the regime has lied to the Armed Forces that continue to fight and to be betrayed by neo-cronies and presidential relatives. Deserving senior officers are allegedly bypassed or not given important assignments owing to their lack of influence. RAM says the Aquino regime's vindictive action has led to a national crisis which feeds on the people's disenchantment.

Over 1,000 NPA Hitmen Reported in Manila

HK3003113190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Over 1,000 New People's Army [NPA] Sparrow hitmen are presently operating in Metro Manila. According to an intelligence report, the Sparrow assassination squads have been operating in different parts of the metropolis for several weeks. Their objective is to kill civilian and military personnel as part of their summer offensive. It was learned that the Sparrow units from Bataan and Pampanga were deployed in the National Capital Region's [NCR] northern sector, while the urban guerrillas from Laguna and Quezon were assigned to the southern sector of the metropolis. The report also stated that the NPA hit squads in Manila are the ones operating in the east and western sector of the NCR.

Rebel Hideouts Raided; NPA Issues Manifesto

HK3003091790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 30 Mar 90 p 8

[By Vic Vega]

[Text] The Western Police District (WPD) raided various suspected hideouts of New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Manila yesterday, the 21st anniversary of the fighting arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Capt. [Captain] Reynaldo Panganiban, WPD Station 1 chief, said his men raided last night "Smokey Mountain" in Balut, Magsaysay, and Velasquez in Tondo and nabbed hundreds of suspected criminals and rebel sympathizers. However, some of them were released after verification by the police. In Moriones, Maj. [Major] Benjamin de Jesus, Station 2 chief, said he launched a civic action program to counter the insurgency in the area and "win the hearts of the people of Moriones against the NPAs." Col. [Colonel] Ernesto Diokno, WPD superintendent, said his command is still on combat alert against any NPA attack.

Meanwhile, the NPA said yesterday it has been winning the guerrilla war against the government since it was re-established on March 29, 1969. In a manifesto released by the NPA high command signed by Romulo Kintanar, the chief of staff of the communist rebel army, the NPA rejected the claim of the military that its forces have been reduced from 20,000 to 15,000 regular armed men. The NPA said it has 50,000 armed regulars, including militiamen, and has established more than 100 guerrilla fronts in the country. It said its armed city partisans, especially the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) organized in 1982, executed more than 500 government agents, military, and police officials. In a related development, police and military agents said communist-controlled factory labor unions will hold simultaneous strikes to sabotage the economy.

Communist Leader Zumel Reported Out of Country

HK3003094390 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 30 Mar 90 p 2

[By Roberto G. Burgos]

[Text] Cebu City—Antonio Zumel, a former Manila journalist who leads the National Democratic Front (NDF), was reported here yesterday to have left for abroad to seek financial and logistical support for the communist movement in the Philippines. Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, here for a Bishops-Businessmen's Conference, admitted receiving "raw information" about the trip of Zumel, a propagandist of the NDF, which is the umbrella organization of local communist groups. Zumel is a younger brother of former Brig. Gen. [Brigadier General] Jose Zumel, one of the suspected plotters of the unsuccessful coup attempt last Dec. 1-9.

Although still being checked by the military intelligence community, Ramos cast doubt on veracity of the report, because Zumel was sickly and might not be able to withstand the rigors of a long foreign journey. The report did not name the country he visited.

Meanwhile, Secretary Ramos laughed off a claim by Romulo Kintanar, Chief of Staff of the New People's Army (NPA), that the government was losing in the insurgency campaign. Kintanar's claim was contained in a statement he issued on the eve of the 21st anniversary foundation of the NPA, the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Addressing the second anniversary celebration of the founding of the Armed Forces Visayas Command at Camp Lapu-Lapu in this city, Ramos branded Kintanar's statement as "pure propaganda". "You and I know the truth is something else," he added. Ramos said that the momentum of insurgency which had enjoyed an uptrend from 1983 to 1987 has now turned in the opposite direction. The CPP-NPA strength and capability have steadily declined since 1988, he said.

Zumel has been tagged by the military as one of the top NDF leaders. A colleague, Satur Ocampo, who is also a former journalist, has been under detention since he and his wife, Carolina Malay Ocampo, were arrested by military operatives last year. Military field commanders in Bicol and Visayan regions noted that many communist insurgents have restored to banditry and other terroristic activities against civilians, who no longer provide them support. This could be the reason why CPP-NPA leaders are now looking to foreigners for support and assistance, military authorities said. Ramos along with other defense and military officials, was attending a meeting between Cebu churchmen and businessmen at the residence of Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Archbishop of Cebu.

Eventual Collapse of Local Insurgency Questioned

HK2903050790 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 29 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[By reporter Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] The crumbling of socialist regimes in Eastern Europe is perceived by many to be the start of the eventual collapse of the local communist movement which is considered as the most active and serious in Asia. But as the New People's Army [NPA], armed wing of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines, marks its 21st anniversary today, experts on the local insurgency question this view. Some quarters do not buy the idea that the local communist movement would disintegrate with the collapse of socialist regimes in Eastern Europe, saying the local communist movement is entirely different in terms of dimension and character. "It's not true that because it (communism) seems to be failing internationality, it is also failing domestically," said Dr Alex Bello Brillantes Jr, a University of the Philippines political analyst. "I think one should be able to look at the specific issues involved as far as the local insurgency is concerned, like genuine land reform." Although Brillantes admitted that developments in Eastern Europe have caused demoralization among the local communist cadres, he stressed that the local movement "should be viewed from the domestic perspective without so much drawing a direct linkage to the international events."

Detained CCP [Communist Party of the Philippines] secretary general Rafael Baylosis said in a recent statement that the 21-year-old communist insurgency will not be dissuaded by developments in Eastern Europe from pursuing an armed struggle to wrest state power. Baylosis conceded that the CPP-NPA suffered "several big problems and even reverses in mass work, people's army building, alliance work" and consolidations from 1986 when President Aquino ascended to power. But he stressed that the movement "did not suffer any strategic setback," although in the last five years, the movement achieved "slower, decelerated growth." A leading cadre operating in Bondoc Peninsula in Quezon province echoed Baylosis's claim. In an interview with NEWSDAY, Rolando Querubin, 40, said events in Eastern Europe and even in Nicaragua are being exaggerated by the Aquino government to mount "a black propaganda" against Communism.

"Ang importante kasi dito ay ang dahilan kung bakit may insurgency at ito ang hindi nakikita ng kasalukuyang gobyerno," [The important thing is why there is insurgency, and the present administration does not perceive this,] Ka [Comrade] Rolly said. He pointed out that "acute poverty" which he said is the cause of insurgency still exists particularly in the countryside. He added that military atrocities continue in areas where the military is active in the counter-insurgency campaign. "Marami pa ring mga tao sa bukid ang palipat-lipat ng tirahan (internal refugees) dahil sa pananakot ng mga militar. Alam mo, karamihan sa mga magsasaka ay pinaghihinalaan na NPA." [Many peasants are still considered as internal refugees due to military atrocities. You know, the majority of the farmers are suspected to be NPA.]

Communist Attack Kills One, Wounds Three 29 Mar

HK3003044990 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 30 Mar 90 pp 1, 10

[Excerpts] A Cavite policeman was killed and three soldiers were wounded in separate attacks staged by suspected communist rebels yesterday, the 21st anniversary of the New People's Army. The casualty brought to 88 the number of persons slain since Saturday in the communists' summer offensive, reports reaching Camp Crame said. [passage omitted] Concern over security in Manila prompted the U.S. Navy this week to ban most non-essential travel to the city. The order, issued on Monday, applies to the 6,000 sailors at the Subic Bay naval base but not to about 9,000 airmen at Clark Air base. Airmen, however, have been ordered not to travel at night between Clark and Manila.

In another development, military dissidents charged Thursday that President Aquino's government was corrupt and inept and that soldiers had a moral obligation to oust her. The dissident Young Officers' Union distributed a statement condemning the Aquino government and vowing to overthrow it. The union, which reportedly includes junior officers, was linked to the Dec. 1-9 unsuccessful coup attempt.

Rebel Colonel Nobel Leads New Mindanao Group

HK3003091990 Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English 29 Mar 90 p 15

[By Media Mindanao News Service]

[Text] Cagayan De Oro City—Renegade Col. [Colonel] Alexander Noble was unanimously chosen to head the Crusade for a Free Mindanao [CFM], an umbrella organization intended to unify secessionists, landowners, farmers and multisectoral groups promoting self-determination for the island. Formation of the CFM was announced almost simultaneously with the warning aired by opposition leader Homobono Adaza in Manila which urged the national government to undertake "structural changes" before the demand for Mindanao independence becomes a popular call in the South.

The CFM aims to establish the "Free State of Mindanao" as part of a "confederation" or "common-wealth" of the Philippines with Luzon and the Visayas as "states." Under the CFM are organized groups like the Mindanao Independence Movement [MIM] and the Movement for a Better Mindanao [MOBEMIN], a Mindanao landowners' organization. "We are combining our forces because that's the only way we can succeed," said Lorenzo de la Serna, MIM secretary-general, referring to the group's aim to set up the federal state of Mindanao as its minimum objective, or the dismemberment of Mindanao from the Philippine republic as its maximum goal. De la Serna said Nobel was "unanimously" chosen to head the CFM by leaders of the MIM, the MOBEMIN and sectoral groups attending a "high-level" conference at an undisclosed place in Agusan del Sur over the weekend. He said Nobel presided over the meeting held on Sunday. He said Noble has now become the "rallying point" for Mindanao secessionists because the former deputy commander of the elite Presidential Security Group "has arms" and can unite Mindanao tribes.

Economic Director Says Economy Slowing Down

HK3003092790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 29 Mar 90 p 15

[By Juan V. Sarmiento, Jr.]

[Text] The Philippine economy is slowing down but is not yet in a recession, the head of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said yesterday. Economists have expressed concern that a recession would occur this year unless the government initiates serious efforts to check the trade deficit which soared to a record $2.6 billion last year.

Cayetano Paderanga Jr., NEDA director general and economic planning secretary, admitted yesterday that some indicators show that economic activity has indeed slowed down. But he maintained that the economy is sound despite destabilizing factors such as the drought, military unrest, political squabbles and domestic oil price increases. At worst, the gross national product (GNP) would grow by 5.0 percent and at best expand by 5.5 to 6.0 percent this year, Paderanga said. Last year, GNP growth fell to 5.6 percent from 6.7 percent in 1988. The NEDA chief said that the stock market showed downtrend. From Jan. 2 to March 2, volume and value of stock market transactions shrank 43.1 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively. He noted that fears of lingering destabilization led to speculation and erratic share prices.

Agricultural production this year is expected to drop by two percentage points to just 2.5 percent from pre-drought projections. Paderanga also disclosed that during the first two months of 1990, the exchange and interest rates remained high but there were no indications of drastic upward movements for these variables shortly after the December coup. The planning agency explained that the recent depreciation of the peso and the rise in interest rates are responses to economic fundamentals rather than to perceptions of political instability. The peso depreciation for instance can be traced to a high trade gap and declining international reserves while the high lending rates are due to a large budget deficit and government's monetary tightening measures. On the positive side, NEDA said initial paid-up capital investments rose from Jan. 2 to Feb. 23 this year. Initial paid-up capital during the period rose 6.3 percent from last year. Moreover, there have been no recorded withdrawals of major investment commitments. This indicates that investors' confidence in the Philippine economy still remains firm, Paderanga said.

Thailand

Sitthi Reports Talks With PRC on Cambodia

BK0104092990 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Talks have been held between Thailand and China to find a political solution to the Cambodian problem. Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila disclosed to newsmen after a meeting with Chinese Premier Li Peng and Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin that the Chinese leaders extended their regards to Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan and former Army Commander and Acting Supreme Commander Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut. The Chinese leaders made a two-point proposal on the settlement of the Cambodian problem. For them, the following measures have to be urgently carried out: First, the Vietnamese troop withdrawal from

Cambodia must be seriously verified, because China has learned that Vietnam sent troops back into Cambodia; second, whatever political programs for solution are introduced, they must have the approval of the four Cambodian factions, with Prince Norodom Sihanouk as president [as heard].

[Begin Sitthi recording] They told me about the economic measures introduced since 1985 and the rapid growth that outpaced other developments, resulting in inflation and several other economic problems. This led to the incident that took place last year. They said there has been an adjustment in economic structure. At the current session of the people's council, there has been a move to amend several laws concerning economic matters and various structures. [end recording]

The two Chinese leaders also made known the Chinese Government's desire to see an end to the fighting in Cambodia through reduction in forces on all sides and through a general election held under the supervision of the United Nations to form a legally and politically legitimate government in Cambodia. They reaffirmed that the Khmer Rouge would not be allowed to return to power in Cambodia.

In addition to talks on the Cambodia problem, the Thai foreign minister and the Chinese leaders also exchanged views on economic cooperation between Thailand and China. Meanwhile, there was no mention about Thailand's plan to grant a visa for the visit of the Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, which has come under strong criticism lately. Somphong Faichampa, director general of the Information Department, told newsmen that the Chinese leaders did not ask the Thai foreign minister about this matter. It is therefore believed that China would cause no problem if Thailand authorized the Dalai Lama to visit Thailand. The director general of the Information Department also reported that, during talks, the Thai and Chinese leaders discussed the plan to establish a Chinese general consulate in Chiang Mai and the narcotics problem.

[Begin Somphong recording] It is believed that China will open a general consulate in Chiang Mai this year. Another issue discussed by the two sides was the narcotics problem. Although the narcotics issue is still not a big problem for China, China believes that it should be on guard, and that if no precautions are taken, it could face a serious narcotics problem in the future. [end recording]

Chawalit Appointment Said Gentleman's Agreement

BK3103021390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Mar 90 pp 1, 3

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan told his Chat Thai Party members yesterday the appointment of former armed forces chief General Chawalit Yongchaiyut to the Cabinet was part of a "gentleman's agreement" he had with the general. Well-informed sources said Gen Chatchai made the explanation to members during a party meeting yesterday in response to a query raised by a northeastern MP [member of Parliament]. Gen Chatchai was asked why he had chosen Gen Chawalit and whether the general would join the Chat Thai Party because he had been given a portfolio under the Chat Thai quota. The Prime Minister told the meeting he had promised Gen Chawalit he would appoint him either Defence, Interior or Foreign minister in return for his assistance to the Chat Thai Party in the past. The sources said the Premier explained during the meeting that Gen Chawalit had helped coordinate with other political parties which enabled Chat Thai to join the Prem Tinsulanon administration in 1983. The general again helped the party in 1988 to become a core to form the present coalition after the general election. He had offered a Cabinet post to Gen Chawalit then, but the military chief was still active in the armed forces and could not join the Government. "The appointment of Gen Chawalit was made now that he no longer is an active military officer," the sources quoted the Premier as explaining.

Gen Chatchai did not say directly that Gen Chawalit would join Chat Thai but said the general had often said that he had been "part of Chat Thai for a long time," the sources said. During the meeting Gen Chatchai expressed confidence that the Government would last its full four-year term now that Gen Chawalit had joined. The Premier, the sources said, complained during the meeting that he was tired and wanted a new person to help him in defence affairs. He also denied any conflict with party advisory chairman, Industry Minister Praman Adireksan. "The Prime Minister told the meeting he had already cleared up the misunderstandings he had with Pol Gen [Police General] Praman. "He told the meeting he had no more plans to transfer Pol Gen Praman," one source said, adding that Gen Chatchai's remarks drew laughter from party members.

Article Views Appointment

BK0104041590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Mar 90 p 3

[Article by Somphong Kittinaradon: "When Generals Ascend, Politicians Shudder and the People Wonder"]

[Text] Finally, General Chawalit Yongchaiyut has decided to join the Chatchai Cabinet in a marriage of convenience that follows his resignation from military service. In a sense, his move was an anti-climax, defusing a potentially explosive showdown which would have been damaging to both sides. With his agreement to take over as deputy premier and defence minister, Gen Chawalit is said to have easily won Premier Chatchai Chunhawan's consent for his key supporters to be appointed as his successors at the Supreme Command and particularly the powerful Royal Thai Army. Gen Suchinda Khraprayun with solid support from within the army rose one step to reach the top as army chief, while Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, classmate and comrade-in-arms of Chawalit, was promoted from his post as chief-of-staff to become supreme commander. The trio's appointments were announced in royal commands early yesterday morning after Suchinda's supporters diplayed a rare show of army solidarity for both Chawalit and their new army commander.

There can be no denying of the act that the strength of Suchinda's group in the army was the fundamental reason behind his dramatic rise to the top post in the army and what is in practice the most powerful military position. Chawalit's decision to join the Cabinet was also needed to ensure Suchinda's smooth ascension to the top. On the political front, if Chawalit had rejected Chatchai's overtures more weight could have been lent to speculation that the military, particularly the army, did not support the coalition government. The government's stability might have suffered a psychological blow, but on the other hand, Chatchai could also have been forced into a corner and compelled to play a risky game—rejecting the Suchinda nomination and invoking his powers as defence minister to appoint any army officer he trusted as Chawalit's successor. In such a scenario, Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun, Defence Ministry permanent secretary, was Chatchai's obvious favourite choice. But that could have led to unthinkable confrontaton, possibly disastrous to both sides.

Chawalit clearly took into consideration his army supporters' views in deciding to join the government. As Suchinda disclosed at Thurday's military parade in Chawalit's honour, he and his group requested the outgoing army chief to "make another sacrifice" by joining the Cabinet to protect "the solidarity of the army." The first "sacrifice" was for Gen Chawalit to quit before his mandatory retirement age of 60. As defence minister, Chawalit would pose a counter-balance to Premier Chatchai, preventing "political meddling" with army affairs—the forthcoming one is the reshuffling of army officers to fill the vacancy left by Gen Suchinda's promotion. "Every army chief wants to make his army an institution of pride; and nobody can meddle in its internal affairs when it has its pride and prestige to protect," Suchinda proclaimed on Friday shortly after his appointment was announced.

As deputy premier, Chawalit looks forward to having some political role to play. One source commented: "It's better to have something to do inside the Cabinet in the interim between his resignation and any political change that would boost his standing." Before the dust settled this week, Chawalit reportedly kept open the possibility of entering monkhood at a Chon Buri temple while waiting for a political windfall. Chawalit, the source said, looked forward to following up on the Green Esan development project for the northeasterners and the Harappan Baru project for the Muslim population in the southernmost provinces. The two development projects were spearheaded by the army and are expected to gain popularity for Chawalit among the local people. But Chawalit also paid a price for his decision. He came under renewed fire from the Student Federation of Thailand (SFT) for running counter to what it called the "democratic culture" that only MPs [members of Parliament] should be appointed ministers. Chawalit also invited criticism from the opposition parties for joining a Cabinet that they have called corrupt.

On the one hand, Chawalit's entry helped restore public confidence in the government. The political jitters also eased off as a result, at least temporarily. The government can be more confident of its stability at least until Parliament reconvenes in early May and some optimists say now it has a better chance of surviving the three-month Parliamentary session when any government's position is usually more vulnerable. On the other hand, cynical observers believe that "the marriage of convenience" between Chawalit and Chatchai will not proceed smoothly. As a Cabinet member without a party, Chawalit appears to be posing no threat to Chatchai's position but the former army commander also has his own strength because of the apparent support of the military. His desire to handle the Green Esan and the Harappan Baru project has already been interpreted as an indication that he is stepping up efforts to build up his base for the next general election. At a weekend visit to Khon Khaen, Chawalit also announced at a major rally that he would certainly seek election in the Northeast.

Another sign of Chatchai's suspicions was his decision to remove Gen Panya Singsakda from the key executive post of the Prime Minister's secretary general to become the powerless chairman of the Prime Minister's Advisory Board. Panya, known to be closer to Chawalit than to Chatchai, was replaced by the former Fourth Army Region commander, Gen Wanchai Chitchamnong, who enjoys Chatchai's full trust. Chatchai reportedly intended to appoint Wanchai as his secretary general ever since he formed his Cabinet in August, 1988 but changed his mind out of his understanding that Gen Panya would be Gen Chawalit's liaison to strengthen government-military relations. On the surface, Chatchai had nothing to do with the sustained campaign by the students against the appointment of non-MPs to the Cabinet. Deep down, however, the premier's supporters would naturally be more than happy if the campaign would prevent Chawalit being handed the premiership fortutiously if Chatchai has to step down, say, in a tactical retreat to defuse a major parliamentary crisis. To neutralize the effects from the students' campaign, Chawalit may have to think hard about the possibility of standing in a by-election, something that may happen if one of his supporters in the House voluntarily resigns. If that's the case, then he has to decide under which party's banner he would run.

A variant of this context is the prospect of Chawalit unveiling a political party of his own. Chatchai certainly wants Chawalit to enter his Chat Thai Party instead of setting up a party of his own. He has already offered to support Chawalit as his heir apparent if the new deputy premier joins Chat Thai. But few believe that Chawalit will take up Chatchai's offer unless there is no option. Chawalit cannot be assured that he will have support from the various Chat Thai factions, particularly the one led by party chairman Police General Praman Adireksarn and deputy leader Sano Thianthong. Relations between the group and the mainstream faction led by Chatchai and party secretary general Banhan Sinlapaacha have worsened since Chatchai removed Pramarn from the powerful interior portfolio in January. If Chawalit is to enter an existing party, the most attractive choice appears to be the Ratsadon Party, which is more unified than the others and more ready to accept Chawalit's leadership. The struggle between the old guard and the younger leaders in the Social Action Party and the factionalism within the Democrat Party have prompted Gen Chawalit to rule out the possibility of joining either of these.

The prospect of him setting up his own party remains strong, at least for now. After all, it is an open secret that preparations for the formation of a pro-Chawalit party has been under way for months. Chawalit is certainly aware that his only strength now is the tacit military support. If he wants to strengthen his hand in dealing with Chatchai and the other coalition partners, he may find it attractive to launch a a pro-Chawalit party. How much the political party's debut would affect the present political situation will depend on who the co-founders are. In that case, Chawalit has to decide on two choices—openly accepting to be party leader or to retain his non-partisan image by keeping a distance from the party. If the party is critical of the government, Chawalit may have no choice but to distance himself from it simply because he is a Cabinet member. Chawalit may also risk alienating himself from other political parties unless he moves carefully to strengthen ties with them. On top of this, much will depend on the variables that surface outside and inside Parliament. The two sides will naturally try to capitalize on events from now on.

Even with Chawalit's presence, the government's situation now differs from the strong position it enjoyed in the latter half of its first year. For one thing, the military support for the government is less solid than ever. For another, intra-party bickering and conflicting interests between coalition partners have become a new problem that the premier has to cope with. Chawalit's major weakness is his lack of support in the House. The crucial period to test the government's strength will probably be the coming Parliamentary session when the government may be forced to drop unpopular ministers after a no-confidence offensive by the Opposition. The picture is expected to become clearer as to how long the marriage of convenience between the premier and his defence minister will last when Parliament reconvenes.

Vietnam

Council of State Meets, Issues Communique

BK0104164590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Apr 90

["Communique of the SRV Council of State"]

[Text] On 29-31 March, the Council of State met under the chairmanship of its chairman, Vo Chi Cong.

1. After hearing reports by the National Assembly Judiciary Committee and the State Inspection Commission and views of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee on an amendment to the draft regulation on inspection work in accordance with viewpoints expressed by the Council of State at its previous meeting, the Council of State decided to promulgate this regulation to strengthen the efficacy of the inspection work, contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of state management, seriously implement the state policy on law enforcement, and develop socialist democracy.

2. Basing its work on recommendations by the chief judge of the Supreme People's Court and the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control and viewpoints of the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly Judiciary Committee, the Council of State considered and decided to revise and supplement some provisions in the regulations on organization of the military court and on organization of the military organ of control to suit the code on criminal procedure, the laws on organization of the people's court and the people's organ of control, and regulations on investigating criminal cases.

3. The Council of State heard representatives of the Council of Ministers' report on the draft regulation on tax levy on natural resources and an investigative report by the Economic, Planning, and Budget Committee and the Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly. The Council of State discussed and adopted this regulation, which is aimed at encouraging rational, effective use and exploitation of natural resources to ensure collection of state revenue. The Council of State stressed that natural resources are very valuable national properties. They are one of the most important material bases for the cause of socioeconomic development that must be protected, exploited, and used in an economical, rational, and most effective manner for the benefit of the national economy.

4. After hearing representatives of the Council of Ministers' report on a draft regulation on income taxes and an investigative report by the Economic, Planning, and Budget Committee and the Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly, the Council of State realized it is necessary to promulgate the regulation on income taxes in order to implement social justice and mobilize contributions by individuals to the state budget through their incomes. The Council of State also provided ideas for the Council of Ministers to revise this regulation for submission to the Council of State for further consideration at its next meeting before publicizing it to solicit the people's ideas.

5. At the request of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, to further improve various organs of the Council of Ministers in a way that suits the new management mechanism; to ensure that the organizational and operational systems of various ministries are in line

with the functions of the central state management organ and their machineries are compact, streamlined, have fewer compartments, and do not undertake each other's tasks; and to ensure the right to autonomy of various production and business and other professional units and establishments, the Council of State decided:

A. Organization:

—To set up the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sport, and Tourism on the basis of the Ministries of Culture and Information, the sport and physical education and tourism general departments to unify state management in culture, information, radio and television broadcasting, press, publication, sports and physical education, and tourism; establish the Ministry of Education and Training on the basis of the Ministries of Education, Higher and Vocational Education and Job Training to unify state management in education and training; establish the Ministry of Commerce on the basis of the Ministries of Foreign Economic Relations, Home Trade, and Supply to unify state management in commercial and business activities; and change the name of the Ministry of Engineering and Metals to the Ministry of Heavy Industry to unify state management in the engineering and metals, electronics, mines, geological, oil and natural gas, and chemical resources sectors.

—To ratify the dissolution of the General Department of Mining and Geology, the General Department of Chemicals, and the Oil and Natural Gas General Department.

—To change the name of the Ministry of Communications and Transportation to the Ministry of Communications, Transportation, and Post and Telegraph, and entrust the Ministry of Communications, Transportation, and Post and Telegraph with assuming the function of state management over the post and telegraph sector under the responsibility of the Post and Telegraph General Department, as well as over the civil aviation sector.

—To ratify the dissolution of the Vietnam Civil Aviation General Department.

—To change the name of the State Science and Technology Commission to the State Science Commission in order to unify state management over natural, technical, and social sciences.

—To ratify the transformation of the Vietnam Social Science Commission into the Vietnam Institute of Social Science to perform the function of social scientific research.

—To delegate the function of state management over the rubber sector to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry.

—To ratify the dissolution of the Rubber General Department.

B. Personnel:

—Comrade Tran Hoan is relieved from the position of minister of information to assume the position of minister of culture, information, sports, and tourism.

—Comrade Tran Van Phac is relieved from the position of minister of culture for a new assignment.

—Comrade Tran Hong Quan is relieved from the position of minister of higher and vocational education and job training to assume the position of minister of education and training.

—Comrade Pham Minh Hac is relieved from the position of minister of education for a new assignment.

—Comrade Hoang Minh Thang is relieved from the position of minister of home trade to assume the position of minister of commerce.

—Comrade Hoang Duc Nghi is relieved from the position of minister of supply to assume the position of minister in charge of mountain regions and nationalities.

—Comrade Doan Duy Thanh is relieved from the position of minister of foreign economic relations for a new assignment.

C. The Council of State reminds the Council of Ministers that when implementing the decision on organization and personnel, it must ensure that managerial work of various ministries is not interrupted and must avoid the loss of property, satisfactorily solve the issue concerning the arrangement of work for the number of redundant cadres, workers, and civil servants, and safeguard and rationally and effectively use all material and technical bases that are part of state property.

6. The Council of State decided on a number of matters related to the adjudication work of the Supreme People's Court.

Former Vice Premier Nguyen Lam Dies 1 Apr

BK0204114990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Today, 2 April 1990, the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, and the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee issued the following communique on the demise of Comrade Nguyen Lam:

The CPV Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the VFF Central Committee announce with deep sorrow that Comrade Nguyen Lam—former member of the CPV Central Committee, former secretary of the CPV Central Committee, former vice premier of the SRV Government, and recipient of the Ho Chi Minh Order—passed away at 2110 on 1 April 1990 at Army Hospital 108 in Hanoi due to old age and a serious brain infection resulting from many years of a cerebral blood circulation disorder, in spite of the dedicated care and treatment by the party, state, and doctors.

Coverage Continues on Ho Chi Minh Symposium

Vo Chi Cong Meets Delegates

BK3103040290 Hanoi VNA in English 1659 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—State Council President Vo Chi Cong received here this afternoon M. Ahmed, UNESCO director for the Asia-Pacific region and representative of the UNESCO director general, and other foreign delegates to the just-concluded international symposium 'President Ho Chi Minh—Vietnamese Hero of National Liberation and Great Man of Culture' on the occasion of his birth-centenary this year.

The president expressed his sincere thanks to the international delegates for their noble sentiments as expounded in their addresses full of enthusiasm and a profound scientific spirit. Each speech, he said, deals with the various aspects of Ho Chi Minh's great work and shares the same views that he was a great patriot, a staunch fighter who devoted all his life to the struggle for the Vietnamese people's independence, freedom, and happiness, a great man of culture and a great humanist.

He affirmed that the Vietnamese people are striving their best to carry out President Ho Chi Minh's testament, taking the current process of renovation forward, firmly defending Vietnam and gradually building it into a prosperows country.

For his part, M. Ahmed expressed the joy of the foreign delegates for having participated in the symposium. He said that President Ho Chi Minh had not only encouraged the Vietnamese people but also the whole mankind to rise up in struggle for independence, freedom and happiness.

Also present on this occasion were Chairman of the State Committee for Social Sciences Pham Nhu Cuong, First Vice-foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem and Chairman of the Vietnam UNESCO Committee Nguyen Dy Nien.

On this evening, Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, gave a reception in honour of the foreign guests. Also on hand were members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations in Hanoi.

Vo Nguyen Giap Speaks

BK3003110190 Hanoi VNA in English 0721 GMT 30 Mar 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, delivered the following speech at the opening session yesterday of the international symposium on President Ho Chi Minh:

At the outset, allow me on behalf of the Vietnamese people and of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to convey our sincere gratitude to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization for the adoption of the resolution on the commemoration of the birth centenary of President Ho Chi Minh in 1990.

I should like to extend a very warm welcome to our honoured foreign guests who have come to Hanoi from the four continents to share with us their kind feelings and thoughts at this international symposium on "President Ho Chi Minh Hero of National Liberation and Great Man of Culture." This is to the Vietnamese people a major source of encouragement.

I should also like to congratulate cordially Vietnamese researchers and scholars who have devoted much of their mental energy to studying President Ho Chi Minh's personality and his revolutionary and cultural work in order to make their contribution to the success of the symposium.

Let me as well thank the distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, foreign and Vietnamese journalists and all other friends attending this event.

President Ho Chi Minh was born at a time when the Vietnamese nation was living in misery and humiliation under the domination of French imperialism. Successive generations of scholars and other patriots have stood up to fight for independence and freedom but all to no avail. History made it incumbent upon the Vietnamese nation, each Vietnamese patriot as well as oppressed nations of the world at that time to find a way to save the country and the nation. Such was the great challenge of the times.

Young boy Nguyen Sinh Cung grew up in a humble family of scholars who led a simple and frugal life.

President Ho Chi Minh's father, the honourable bangg [word as received] rejected the prescription of loyalty to the king as in his mind "patriotism means love of the people." From his childhood he had been impregnated with the millenary national tradition and resistance against foreign aggression, with the age-old Vietnamese culture and the quintessence of Eastern culture. His family also inculcated [in] him patriotism and closeness to the people and he assimilated the culture as well as the tradition of undaunted struggle of the Lam Hong region. Endowed with intelligence and independence of mind young Nguyen Sinh Cung harboured the great design of saving his country and people but resolved not to tread in the footsteps of predecessors. Driven by an extraordinary willpower he decided to go to the West to see for himself the land of those that had imposed domination over the Vietnamese nation and to find the path toward national liberation.

Nguyen Ai Quoc went to France. He did not stay there but continued his long journey through many countries in Europe, Africa, America and Asia. And he found out a truth that to him was quite new, namely that on every continent, in rich and powerful countries just as in the destitute colonies, there are oppressed and exploited pariahs on the one hand, and ruling oligarchies living on exploitation and oppression on the other.

It was also during those years of ceaseless travels that Nguyen Ai Quoc enlarged his sum of knowledge. He studied with interest philosophical and political theories especially the French revolutionary ideology and the French culture. With his command of several languages he was able to assimilate spiritual values and humanistic ideas from different cultures, both ancient and modern, Eastern and Western. He read the new books of China and Japan. He also explored the philosophy and literature of the renaissance and the age of enlightenment. He studied the economic theories of Ricardo and Adam Smith. He engrossed himself in the works of Karl Marx, he read Victor Hugo, Shakespeare, Tolstoy, Lu Hsun in their original texts. He would at the same time study, write for the press and for the stage. In the eyes of his friends Nguyen Ai Quoc was "an outstanding person in many fields, in fact an erudite". At the same time someone remarked that the person of Nguyen Ai Quoc evinced a culture of a new type, possibly "the culture of tomorrow."

Through years of work, study and research and particularly of practical revolutionary struggle on several continents a master thesis was taking shape within Nguyen Ai Quoc i.e. national liberation must be closely linked with class emancipation and with the emancipation of the individual person and of mankind.

In 1917 the October Revolution carried the day, heralding the dawn of a new era. In 1920 Lenin issued the rallying call "workers and oppressed peoples of the world, unite." Nguyen Ai Quoc then adhered to Leninism. "The only correct path to save the country is that of proletarian revolution." He had found an idea for himself and for the nation.

At the Tours congress a citizen from a colony became one of the founders of the French Communist Party in the mother country itself. With the setting up of the association of colonial countries, the citizen of a daliated [word as received] country was not only striving to free his homeland but also sharing the struggle of other colonized peoples for national liberation. This was indeed a rare occurrence. Patriotism was being closely linked with genuine internationalism. National liberation was closely connected with socialism.

Nguyen Ai Quoc—the Vietnamese patriot—became the first Vietnamese communist and the first to propagate and to apply creatively Marxism-Leninism on the Indochinese peninsula.

Finding the path of national salvation was the first major service rendered by President Ho Chi Minh in his revolutionary work.

It is laid down in the testament: "First was the verb [as received]."

The great poet Goethe wrote: "First was the act."

With President Ho Chi Minh's deeds always matching the world's, practice went hand in hand with theory; if he spoke he meant to act. The world was not merely to be apprehended but furthermore to be transformed.

President Ho Chi Minh was not only a strategist of genius but also a remarkable organizer.

He was the first to write 'colonialism on trial.' And none else than himself together with his nation bid [as received] in fact to execute the verdict.

For the cause of the Vietnamese revolution President Ho Chi Minh was the man who made historic decisions at historic junctures.

He founded the Indochinese Communist Party, prototype of the Vietnam Communist Party and of the other revolutionary parties on the Indochinese peninsula. The Vietnam Communist Party became the vanguard that took class and the nation forward through all the victorious phases of the revolution.

Together with the party Central Committee he decided to call the general armed insurrection that was to result in the victory of the August Revolution and the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Together with the party he took the decision to launch a nationwide war of resistance, and led the anti-French resistance that resulted in the Dien Bien Phu victory, totally liberating the north. Together with the party Central Committee he led the patriotic war of resistance against the U.S. "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." The anti-American resistance wrested final victory in the Ho Chi Minh campaign which freed the south and reunified the homeland, paving the way for the countrywide construction of socialism.

The greatness of President Ho Chi Minh was in his perception that in the people resided the forces which determine the outcome of the revolution. He used to observe: The nation is rooted in the people. The people (workers and peasants) are the roots of the revolution: If the people are with you nothing is impossible.

Once the revolutionary ideal has won the hearts of the vast majority of the people it becomes a material force that no war machine can suppress.

The greatness of President Ho Chi Minh is that he has found the best ways of organizing the people. He set up the Front of National Unity to unite the whole people; he created the People's Armed Forces, drawn from the people and fighting for the people, and he formed the popular administration from the tumultuous early days of the resistance elected from the central to the grass-roots levels by the people to serve the people.

Guided by the conviction that to rely on the strength of the entire people makes it possible to defeat all enemies, president Ho Chi Minh led the whole Vietnamese armed forces and people in waging a people's war; fighting injustice with justice, fighting the large with the small, fighting large numbers with small numbers, so that a small country was able to defeat two major imperialisms, the French and the American.

While considering the entire people as the main source of strength one had to duly value the major strength of international sympathy and support extended by the whole progressive mankind, including the progressive French and American people.

It was necessary to unite all these forces into a powerful aggregate force to wage an all-round struggle, military, political, economic and diplomatic.

President Ho Chi Minh used to say: Union makes strength,
Union, union, greater union,
Success, success, greater success.

President Ho Chi Minh used to adopt an all-round approach. During the years of resistance he attached great importance to nation-building, to the shaping of a new life, a new culture.

To him, "the renewal and construction of the country was the responsibility of the people. The cause of national resistance and nation-building was the work of the people." The democratic republic had to ensure that the people were truly the masters of their country, enjoyed all democratic freedoms but had also to prohibit any abuse of democratic freedoms that infringes on the interests of the state and the people." "Citizens were to abide by the constitution and the law, to observe labour discipline, public order and rules of social conduct." Everything at that time, be it the work of resistance or of nation-building, was equally new. "We have to learn as we go and to act as we learn. We are bound to commit errors but we shall correct them; we shall have the courage to do so." The party as well as the government must regularly undertake criticism and self-criticism.

From those days he advocated that one of the things that was urgently needed was to develop culture and raise the intellectual level of the people. One had to fight ignorance as well as hunger and foreign aggression. First and foremost one had to fight illiteracy; each and every Vietnamese had to know how to read and write. "Every Vietnamese has to know his rights, has to acquire new knowledge in order to take part in national construction." He always appreciated the significance of socio-cultural problems which he looked upon as a most fundamental component of the strategy regarding man. "For the sake of ten years plant a tree. For the sake of a century plant a man."

The kind of culture he was advocating combined the heightened and enhanced national cultural traditions with mankind's cultural quintessence and was deeply impregnated with patriotism and genuine internationalism. One had to ensure that "culture reached deep into the national psyche" and the new life. "Culture has to counter and transform corruption, sloth, vanity, indulgence in luxury. It has to make every Vietnamese, old and young, men and women alike, understand his or her responsibility and know how to enjoy well-deserved happiness."

In his view, there was no limit to learning and ignorance was one of the enemies. Education had to be developed in order to enable the shaping of the new man, the progression along the infinite road of science and technology, the building of socialism and for Vietnam to match other nations of the world. Learn in order to work. Learn so as to make a proper man. Learn and act.

President Ho Chi Minh would generally emphasize moral education and such qualities as "industry, thrift, integrity, righteousness, public dedication, disinterestedness." He would pronounce: "A nation that shows industry, thrift, integrity and righteousness is a rich and strong nation both materially and morally, it is a civilized, progressive nation."

The most important cultural contribution of President Ho Chi Minh has been to lead the whole people in driving out foreign aggression in contemporary times, wresting back for the people the human right to life, to a life with culture. He contributed his share to mankind's endeavour to overcome a major impediment on the road towards the civilized world, thus removing a dirty stain in history i.e. colonialism.

We are all struck by the strange consistency in the personality of President Ho Chi Minh through innumerable changes and upheavals of history, by the harmonious combination of many quite different styles of behaviour in one single person: both national and internationalist, very human but at the same time radically revolutionary, most learned while also utterly modest, most principled on strategy but most flexible on tactics, a man of vision and insight but with a practical mind, both great and simple, a fighter and a poet.

We talk of the battle as the sampan drifts down the river, into the night flooded with the silver moonshine.

In the eve of the storm he would remain his serene self looking with quiet confidence to the future.

In the midst of hardship and danger he would show the same equanimity, always firm in the belief in the victory of the revolutionary cause.

In President Ho Chi Minh was crystallized the unity between country and people, between nation and class, between the national and the international, between the ideal of national independence and the socialist ideal. He showed an immutable love for the people and for humanity.

President Ho Chi Minh is a lofty incarnation of the new man in the new era, a symbol of humanism in its fullest sense, an admirable example of what a communist ought to be.

From the very first days after the succession to power President Ho Chi Minh said: "I have but one desire, one supreme desire, that is to ensure that the country is totally independent, our people are wholly free and each of our compatriots has food to eat and a school to go to."

Later he stressed: "When a country is independent but its people do not enjoy happiness or freedom, then that independence becomes meaningless."

President Ho Chi Minh nurtured a vast dream, that of achieving independence and reunification for the fatherland, from then to move on to building socialism and a new, better society wherein everyone would enjoy material well-being, happiness, freedom and equality. This is also the substance of his great thought of the Ho Chi Minh thought.

This was to our people a major task, altogether new and extremely difficult, for which they would have to grope, explore and create; in this resides also for our nation a new challenge of the times.

The sixth congress of the Vietnam Communist Party charted the line of renewal: Renewal of our thinking, first and foremost of our economic thinking, and renewal of our organization and cadres with a view to releasing the productive forces, setting the worker free, overcoming bureaucratic centralization and poor management which for a long time had been a course of difficulty and stagnation.

Firmly holding to the double banner of national independence and socialism, the Vietnamese people under the leadership of their Communist Party are striving to decisively implement President Ho Chi Minh's thought in order to build a society of scientific socialism "for the people, by the people" that is adapted to the characteristics of Vietnamese society in all respects and to the trend of development of our time and can ensure wealth to the people and strength to the country.

Constant renewal and creation is in the nature of Marxism-Leninism. President Ho Chi Minh was an example of such constant renewal and creation. He used to say. "We need to show a creative spirit, we have to search for the new and put it into practice, then there is nothing we cannot do." The Vietnamese people are inherently endowed with creative independence. We shall succeed in undertaking our line of renewal in a judicious direction suited to the realities of our country, without stereotyped imitation by learning lively from other countries' experiences.

With the aim of carrying out successfully this vast task of renewal, the Vietnam Communist Party advocates first of all a renewal in its leadership work so as to enhance its militant competence and vanguard role, to reinforce the ties between the party and the masses and to ensure that the policies of the party meet the deep aspirations of the people and the interest of the people and of the country.

President Ho Chi Minh said: "The fight against whatever is outdated or wrong in order to create something new and fine constitutes a gigantic struggle which requires the mobilization, organization and education of the whole people, reliance on the immense forces of the people."

In the present process of renewal, the Front of National Unity plays a major role which is to rally and mobilize every social class and popular stratum as well as overseas Vietnamese compatriots to develop the foundation of the Vietnamese national community in the new revolutionary phase as actors in that "gigantic struggle."

In order to bring out in the people their active dynamism and their eager initiative, we need to practise democracy, reinforce socialist legislation, ensure social equity and at the same time resolutely eradicate negative phenomena and other social ills. Very early President Ho Chi Minh detected and fought mercilessly against bureaucratism, corruption, bribery, waste which he looked upon to be as dangerous as "a foe within your own self," a kind of "domestic aggressor."

To make renewal possible we have to attach due importance to the strategy regarding man. Man is both the objective and the motive force of the revolution. We have to foster and train talents and make use of them; "talents must not be wasted." Education, science and technology, the development of culture, the rising of the entire people's cultural level have to be very important.

President Ho Chi Minh has striven by all means to enrich his sum of knowledge with the spiritual values of other countries in the world. The Vietnamese people are rethinking and readjusting Vietnam's foreign relations, broadening Vietnam's relations of economic, cultural, scientific and technological cooperation with other countries. The Vietnamese people will do their utmost to strengthen their solidarity with all peace- and justice-loving peoples and make a worthy contribution to the common struggle for a genuine peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

In grateful tribute to President Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnamese people across the country are these days engaging in emulative labour and study in anticipation of the centenary of his birh.

In view of President Ho Chi Minh's testament there is one wish that he could not realize before his demise. He intended when total victory would be achieved in the resistance against U.S aggression for national salvation, to tour both South and North to visit fellow-countrymen, cadres and combatants, old people and beloved youth and children. He intended afterward to go, on behalf of the Vietnamese people, to fraternal and friendly countries in the whole world and thank them for their whole-hearted support and assistance to their patriotic struggle.

On the occasion of this symposium, the Vietnamese people wish to solemnly reiterate their gratitude to their friends and to the peoples of the world.

President Ho Chi Minh, hero of national liberation, great man of culture, was also a militant who fought tirelessly his whole life for peace and friendship among nations.

President Ho Chi Minh lives forever in our cause.

We wish all success to the symposium.

I thank you all.

TASS Cited on Central Committee Eighth Plenum

BK0104104490 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] The Soviet news agency TASS on March 30 said the Eighth Plenum of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee has affirmed that the renovation process in Vietnam is following the line worked out by the party. TASS said that the factor deciding the success of renovation is the consolidation of the party leadership, preservation of the party's unity, strengthening of the relations between the party and the masses, and broadening of socialist democracy. The Communist Party of Vietnam, founded by the late President Ho Chi Minh and his comrades-in-arms, is preserving and developing its fine traditions, including the tradition of unity. The Communist Party of Vietnam has always found the way not only to avoid division but also to consolidate its rank and enhance its prestige among the people, TASS said.

KYODO Reports Criticism of Soviet Party

OW3103114790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi, March 31 KYODO—The Vietnamese Communist Party has criticized the Soviet Communist Party by name for renouncing class struggle, reliable sources here said Saturday. During a discussion at the eighth plenum of the party's Central Committee, held March 12-27 in Hanoi, the party said that the Soviet Communist Party gave up class struggle in the national interest and compromised with the West, the sources said. However, the plenum communique released Wednesday refrained from criticizing the Soviet Union, East European countries and China by name.

The Vietnamese party said fundamental changes in the Soviet Union's domestic and foreign policies have had a negative influence on the world as a whole and caused a great change in the socialist system making East European countries lose their base of support. The present situation in the Soviet Union developed beyond the expectations of Soviet leadership and has gone out of control, the party was quoted as saying. The Vietnamese party said the Soviet Union gave up class struggle and compromised with the West because it wanted to catch up in the economic and technological areas where the country has been outdistanced by Western countries.

On China, the Vietnamese party said as a result of Beijing's "reactionary policy" of establishing strategic ties with the West, including the United States, to oppose the Soviet Union, internal contradictions, including calls for democracy, have increased and caused the Tiananmen Square incident last June. China has cosmetically restored stability but elements of instability such as power struggle and discontent of the people have not been eliminated, the party said. The Vietnamese party expects the situation in China will be more complicated after paramount leader Deng Xiaoping dies, the sources said. Vietnam is the biggest victim of China's "reactionary policy" of siding with the West, the party was quoted as saying.

European Parliament Members Visit Vietnam

BK3103093390 Hanoi VNA in English 0900 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 31—A group of the European Parliament (E.P.) including W. Telkamper, vice-president and M. McGowan, M.P. [member of Parliament] paid a working visit to Vietnam from March 25-30.

The guests paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, and visited his residence and office.

They paid a courtesy visit to Le Quang Dao, vice-president of the State Council and chairman of the National Assembly. They discussed with Chairwoman of The External Relations Commission of The National Assembly Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh on matters of mutual concern. She reaffirmed Vietnam's determination to continue renovation in the political, economic and social fields, and broaden its economic relations will all nations on the basis of mutual benefits. She expressed her hope that the European Parliament and the European Economic Council [expansion as received] (EEC) would soon establish official relations with Vietnam.

The guests also had working sessions with a number of offices concerned and visited several economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and the southern provinces of Tien Giang.

Goods Exchange, Payment Protocol With Cuba

BK0204093590 Hanoi VNA in English 1601 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1—A protocol on goods exchange and payment for this year between Vietnam and Cuba was signed in Havana on March 30 by Dinh Phu Dinh, Vietnamese vice-minister for external economic relations, and P.A. Borego, Cuban vice-minister of foreign trade.

Under the protocol, Vietnam will export rice, rubber, tea, cinnamon and anise to Cuba in exchange for sugar, paper, cloth and medicines.

Hanoi Radio Cites Talks in Manila 29 Mar

BK0104135890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] According to AFP, Philippine officials said that Philippine and Vietnamese representatives met in Manila on 29 March to exchange views and discuss measures to expand politico-economic relations between the two countries and to strengthen security in the region. A Philippine Government statement said: Manila hopes that the exchange of views will help strengthen stability and peace in the region.

Australia

Parties Begin Post-Election Leadership Reshuffle

BK0104015990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0119 GMT 1 Apr 90

[By Ian Pedley]

[Text] Sydney, April 1 (AFP)—The ritual changing of the guard is under way in the ruling Labor Party after Australia's general elections which returned Prime Minister Bob Hawke's government for a record fourth term. The opposition Liberal Party, which will elect new leaders on Tuesday, has already got rid of its old guard.

Andrew Peacock and John Howard, who between them led the Conservatives to defeat in the last three elections, both admit they have had their day. So too must a number of Labor Party faithfuls who have served Mr. Hawke since he first won office in 1983.

Political analysts believe Mr. Hawke will axe several ministers to make way for new blood in a reshuffled cabinet to be sworn in on Wednesday.

The National Party, junior partner in the Labor coalition, is meanwhile looking for its third leader in less than a year.

National leader Charles Blunt, who deposed the crusty Ian Sinclair in a party coup last May, took a savaging in the March 24 poll and bar a miracle from postal votes has lost his seat.

The minority Australian Democrats are also without a leader as a result of Janine Haines' unsuccessful bid to make the transition from the Senate to the House of Representatives. Ironically while Mrs. Haines failed to become the first Democrat to enter the decision-making lower house, her party strengthened its representation in the Senate where it already held the balance of power.

Australia will have a new deputy prime minister following the retirement of Lionel Bowen who did not contest the elections.

Analysts said that Treasurer Paul Keating has only to ask to get the job, and has Mr. Hawke's personal seal of approval. According to popular belief Mr. Hawke, 60, will step down in favour of the 46-year-old Mr. Keating midway through his new three-year term. Mr. Hawke disavows that theory and has mentioned going for a fifth term, which analysts said could trigger a challenge from his openly ambitious treasurer.

Among ministers from the last government widely mentioned in the media for likely demotion are Peter Morris (industrial relations), Ralph Willis (transport and communications) and Barry Jones (science).

Sydney's DAILY TELEGRAPH called Saturday for Mr. Hawke to choose his new cabinet on talent, not on the system of paybacks and time-serving that has operated in the past. "There is no sense in sending back tired ministers out of misplaced loyalty," the TELEGRAPH said, urging the prime minister not to leave the likes of Simon Crean, ex-trade union boss and new MP [member of Parliament], languishing on the backbench.

The Liberal Party will present an even fresher face for the 1990s with a new leader and possibly a change of deputy as well. Shadow treasurer John Hewson, a 43-year-old former economics professor, is front-runner to take over from Mr. Peacock and also has his blessing. The Liberals see Mr. Hewson as the success story of the campaign for going the full distance against the hard-hitting Mr. Keating.

But some sections of the party are already worried about Mr. Hewson's political naivety and his lack of experience outside his area of economic expertise. Mr. Hewson is perceived to have blundered last Thursday in the wake of Mr. Peacock's election concession and resignation as opposition leader. Announcing his nomination, Mr. Hewson proposed that Mr. Peacock stay on as deputy to pass on his experience, saying he was aware of his own shortcomings after only three years in Canberra. Mr. Peacock declined but some damage was already done among a party in the mood for complete change after a disastrous decade for the Conservatives.

The Australian newspaper's influential columnist Paul Kelly wrote Saturday that the Liberals, in their haste to bury the past, were "rushing to create, almost overnight, a new messiah—the cold, competent, credible shadow treasurer John Hewson. The story of the week has been the stampede by the defeated Liberals to embrace John Hewson," he said. "His rivals doubt its wisdom. But the momentum for Hewson is powerful."

The relatively low profile Peter Reith, who has held a variety of shadow portfolios, is his only rival to date.

Deputy Party leader Fred Chaney stepped back Friday from a foreshadowed challenge but will seek to retain his position.

Analysts said there could be up to half a dozen contenders for the deputy leadership, with Victorian Ken Aldred and Queenslander Bill Taylor on Saturday showing their hand.

Further on Reshuffle

BK0204101690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 2 Apr 90

[By Ian Pedley]

[Text] Sydney, April 2 (AFP)—Heads have started to roll in faction fighting within the ruling Australian Labor Party for jobs in Prime Minister Bob Hawke's new government to be announced Tuesday [3 April].

Mr. Hawke, returned for a record fourth term in the March 24 elections, has asked his party to give him new blood for the front bench he will lead for the next three years. His parliamentary party, which nominates ministers though not their portfolios, has already begun to oblige.

Two ministers in the previous Hawke government were dumped at a meeting of the party's left-wing faction on Sunday night. Party sources said two more got the chop at a meeting Monday of the party's centre-left, the smallest of the three factions.

The powerful right-wing faction, which includes Treasurer Paul Keating, was to meet Monday night to decide on its candidates for the Hawke ministry.

Mr. Hawke will allocate portfolios on Tuesday after a parliamentary labor caucus ballot for positions in the ministry, with the outcome of voting made certain through prior factional deals.

Political analysts said Mr. Keating would remain in his key portfolio of treasurer and was expected to assume the role of deputy prime minister following the retirement of Lionel Bowen. Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, Industry Minister John Button, Social Security Minister Brian Howe and Primary Industries Minister John Kerin also would keep their old jobs.

The analysts said Trade Negotiations Minister Michael Duffy would take over from Mr. Bowen as attorney-general, while Mr. Hawke was expected to switch Kim Beazley from defence to the Finance Ministry. Mr. Beazley, who has overseen a major review of Australian defence policies and launched a sweeping modernisation program, is widely regarded as the most knowledgeable and successful defence minister in Australia's history.

Analysts said he was being moved to an economic portfolio to groom him as a potential treasurer for when Mr. Hawke eventually makes way for his heir apparent, Mr. Keating, although Mr. Beazley is seen as a potential rival when that time comes. Mr. Beazley would replace Finance Minister Peter Walsh, who did not contest the centre-left's ballot on Monday.

The testy Mr. Walsh, under fire from the party for accusing it of courting the Green vote, told factional colleagues he doubted the government would have the determination to tackle the tough economic decisions he would have on the agenda.

The centre-left voted to drop Science Minister Barry Jones, who made his name as a television quiz contestant, and Industrial Relations Minister Peter Morris.

Stewart West, the administrative services minister axed by his left-wing faction, said Monday he had been politically assassinated for taking a stand against the government to block policies such as privatisation and a consumption tax. Mr. West said he had received no warning he would be dumped. The right-wing faction, on the other hand, usually at least "sent a messenger and a basket of flowers" before removing someone, he said

Education Services Minister Peter Duncan was the other casualty of the left, which will provide three new faces on the front bench.

Analysts said the right-wing faction would profit from a squeeze on the centre-left from both sides, and its new ministers would include parliamentary newboy Simon Crean. Like Mr. Hawke, the newly-elected Mr. Crean formerly headed the Australian Council of Trade Unions and many in the party believe he also is a future prime minister.

The liberal party also will elect its new leadership on Tuesday following the resignation of opposition leader Andrew Peacock in the wake of the conservative coalition's election defeat.

Shadow treasurer John Hewson, a 43-year-old former economics professor, is strongly favoured to become the new opposition leader. Mr. Hewson faces challenges from Victorian frontbencher Peter Reith and little known New South Wales backbencher Alasdair Webster [name as received] who unexpectedly threw his hat into the ring on Sunday.

Deputy Party Leader Fred Chaney faces seven or eight challengers for his job.

Fiji

Pacific Countries To Receive Aid From EC

BK3103074690 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Fiji's interim prime minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara says Pacific countries receiving aids from the European Community have no desire to change their development priorities. Ratu Mara made the remark in Suva at the start of a meeting of ministers from eight Pacific countries expected to receive more than $250 million in EC aid over the next five years.

He said the development of trade, tourism, transport, communications, and natural resources, remained of utmost importance to the eight countries. There would be no need to adopt new priorities under the new trade and aid agreement with the EC known as Lome IV.

Ratu Mara said that sustained efforts in the same areas over a lengthy period were bound to be more effective than adopting new priorities. He said that, for instance, Lome IV would provide the opportunity to improve regional air and maritime transport services, a priority area in which development had so far been relatively slow.

The Pacific countries receiving aid under Lome IV are Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Western Samoa.

Some Chiefs Oppose Draft of New Constitution

BK0104084590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 1 Apr 90

[By Davendra Sharma]

[Text] Suva, April 1 (AFP)—Fiji's interim government is having trouble persuading many of the country's influential native chiefs to accept a constitution that would guarantee political supremacy to ethnic Fijians. Leaders of Fiji's big ethnic Indian community already have rejected the draft document as racist and downgrading.

At least 17 of the Great Council of Chiefs' 70 members also are completely opposed to the government's blueprint for this South Pacific island republic, which has been without a constitution for nearly three years. Military strongman Major General Sitiveni Rabuka abrogated the Constitution following his May 1987 coup, which ousted Fiji's first Indian-dominated government.

Government ministers here claim the draft constitution is generally acceptable to the Great Council of Chiefs, apart from a few splinter groups within the powerful body. But chiefs from the three main provinces on the west coast, a stronghold of the coalition parties deposed in 1987, say they will not accept the constitution until the government recognises their demand for a fourth Fijian confederacy.

The western chiefs' stand is seen as a setback for Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara's interim regime, which had hoped to secure indigenous Fijian support for the draft constitution.

President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, a high-ranking chief and head of one of three Fijian confederacies, has said he hopes a constitutionally-elected government will be in place before the end of 1991. The president has said that only a constitution which places Fijian interests paramount to all others will work in this island state, where native Melanesians slightly outnumber the Indian population.

Ratu Serupepeli Naivalu said he and other western chiefs would boycott any future talks on the constitution unless the government heeded their request.

Creating a fourth confederacy would mean a greater role in government for Fijians from the western provinces, he said. The proposed constitution allows only the present three confederacies—all headed by chiefs from the east—to nominate a president and elect representatives to a separate senate of chiefs, which would have power of veto in contentious issues like land and fishing rights.

The government has allowed the chiefs an unspecified time for a second look at the draft constitution before they meet again. The Great Council has told the government it accepts the draft in principle, but is demanding a total of 20 amendments.

The Fijian affairs minister, Lieutenant-Colonel Vatiliai Navunisaravi—the last serving military officer in Ratu Mara's cabinet—argues that the draft constitution, which proposes 10 extra seats for native Fijians, is best for all races in Fiji.

Opposition leader Adi Kuini Bavadra, widow of deposed coalition Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra, attacked the Mara government's plans during a meeting here last week of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of Third World countries with the European Economic Community (EEC).

"The ACP-EEC group believes in sanctions against South Africa, but at the same time doesn't raise an eyebrow about racial discrimination in Fiji, where one race believes itself superior to another," she said. "We don't want to reach a situation where our own people begin to kill each other", she said, adding: "We want to nip this in the bud before it gets any worse."

She claimed that while the rest of the world, including South Africa and Eastern Europe, was moving towards democracy, Fiji was "going in the opposite direction." She said the struggle for democracy was also rife in other parts of the Pacific, like Tonga, where the commoner people were asking for equal voice in Parliament.

Maj. Gen. Rabuka, who returned to the barracks in January, has said he will see "to the end of it" that the new constitution enshrines a native Fijian majority in Parliament. He said his 5,000-strong armed forces would remain the source of real power until a new government takes over under a new constitution.

Tonga

Police Minister Akau'ola Denies Coup Rumors

BK0104110390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Auckland, New Zealand, April 1 (AFP)—Tonga's minister of police went on government radio Sunday night in an unprecedented move to deny that he was leading a coup d'etat against the island nation's aging king.

Tonga's defense forces were seen late Sunday protecting the royal palace, home to King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, and the prime minister's residency, as rumours of a pending coup swept the kingdom, 2,000 kilometers northeast of here.

Minister of Police Akau'ola said in a 35-minute speech that an evangelical Christian group and four men from New Zealand had created coup rumors and were alleging that an assassination squad had arrived in the kingdom.

He said the group, which he named as the Tokaikilo Fellowship, had claimed that he was leading the coup. Speaking in Tongan, he said the rumors were "absolutely incredible" and "horrific." He pledged his loyalty to the king.

His unscheduled speech at 8:30 p.m. (0730 GMT) began with a defense of the sale of Tongan protected-person passports to Hong Kong and Taiwan Chinese.

It was not immediately clear here whether a growing controversy in Tonga over the passport sale was related to the coup rumors.

Defense Forces 'On Alert'

BK0204075090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0735 GMT 2 Apr 90

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Wellington, April 2 (AFP)—The leader of a fundamentalist Christian group which has sparked political instability in the island kingdom of Tonga Monday [2 April] repeated a claim that a coup d'etat was definitely planned to overthrow King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV.

Liufau Saulala, a member of the evangelical Tokaikilo Fellowship, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the coup was originally planned for April 6. He said an international organisation, "One World Government", was backing the coup which would be led by Tongan Police Minister and noble Akau'ola.

Now its existance had been revealed he said he did not know when it would take place. "I believe there is a definite plan, a conspiracy to overthrow the king," he said.

Late Sunday Akau'ola made an unscheduled 35 minute broadcast on government owned Radio Tonga to deny he was leading a coup in the kingdom of 100,000 people, 1,800 kilometres (1,116 miles) northeast of here.

Leading Commoner MP [member of Parliament] and pro-democracy campaigner Akilise Pohiva said in a telephone interview Monday the situation in Tonga was tense. "There is no sign that there is a coup, there is no sign of a revolution or a demonstration except that the guards at the palace are carrying guns. This is a new thing for Tonga. The prime minister's home is also guarded," he said. Mr. Pohiva attributed coup rumours to a small group unrelated to the political scene that was trying to "stir up" something.

Tongan Defence Forces armed with Uzi submachine guns were Monday still guarding the royal palace and several local sources expressed concern that the crisis could result in the declaration of martial law.

Akau'ola said in his radio broadcast, repeated Monday, the coup rumours were sparked by four New Zealanders linked to the fellowship who arrived in Tonga on March 19 and were given two audiences with the 72-year-old king to warn him of the coup. One of them, Dennis McLachlan, was last December convicted here of criminal libel against former New Zealand Prime Minister Sir Robert Muldoon. He claimed intelligence sources in the Tongan police, in New Zealand and the United States had alerted him to the pending coup. Another is an anti-communist freelance journalist from Auckland, Bernard Moran, who 18 months ago was laid off from the New Zealand Roman Catholic newspaper TABLET. Along with a Pentacostalist couple, John and Sharon Fawcett, they had two audiences with the king in the last 10 days.

They now claim to be in hiding from what Mr. Moran described as a "non-Tongan" group trying to assassinate them and coordinate the coup.

"We've come across a dirty tricks brigade," Mr. Moran said in a telephone interview. "There is a whole operation going on here and we've found out far more than we should have known. I've managed to get the information out to a safe place in New Zealand." He would not elaborate further. "I can't talk much over the phone because it is being tapped.... I can't say too much," he said.

Asked of the king's reaction to the warning he said: "He merely listens, he doesn't comment. You talk to him and he nods his head. You don't get any feedback." But he said he was confident the king was taking the warning seriously.

Mr. Moran said he wanted to leave but could not as his passport had been seized.

A tussle is now apparently taking place as Akau'ola tries to eject the four while the king is said to have overruled the order and asked them to stay.

Mr. Pohiva, a strong political opponent of Akau'ola, praised the minister's statement on the coup rumours and called on him to follow through and deport the New Zealanders.

The story aquired a bizarre touch last week when a female Tokaikilo follower claimed she was kidnapped by the alleged assassination squad but was saved by an angel. In deeply religious Tonga the story acquired a credibility it would not get elsewhere.

Meanwhile military sources confirmed that the Defence Forces were "on alert."

New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer told a press conference here Monday that New Zealand was closely monitoring developments. "There are certain obscurities and uncertainties about the position in Tonga.... Who is doing what to whom is not known at this time," Mr. Palmer said.